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WA no to \$10 mil. plan

The West Australian federation has just rejected an ambitious \$10 million plan put forward by a State government taskforce team to change the face of the game in WA.

The taskforce committee proposed constructing an enclosed, floodlit 15,000 seater astroturf stadium in Perth to be called "Soccer City" and creating a new league known as the "Western Pro League".

The proposals involved the current WASF executive step-

By
JOHN
MANGAN

consisting of eight teams which would play all their games at the super-stadium.

The government offered to fund this scheme to the tune of \$5 million, with another \$5 million expected from private enterprise.

The proposals involved the current WASF executive step-

down to be replaced by the taskforce committee on an interim basis. The interim committee could then only be overruled by a two-thirds majority of the clubs making up the federation.

The WA government has been wary of the WASF executive from the time it first set up the taskforce committee. It denied the WASF representation on the committee as it was feared that it would act only to protect its vested interests.

The government did eventually agree to the WASF's request to be represented on the taskforce committee but the representative, Lew Temm, resigned last November as he did not agree with the direction the committee was taking.

The suggested eight-team league would have replaced the State League as WA's premier competition, but the teams competing in it would not necessarily have come from State League. Rather, licences would have been offered for \$50,000 each and the clubs would have been selected by the interim committee or its successor, a government-

appointed five-man Soccer Commission.

However, the government made clear that the taskforce recommendations would only be implemented if the majority of the clubs in the state agreed.

An extraordinary meeting of

the WASF was held last week and only 40 percent of clubs voted in favor of the proposals.

Although the taskforce put forward six resolutions to be voted on separately, the meeting chose to vote on the resolutions collectively.

Socceroo Craig?

Craig Johnston has told Frank Arok that he is "ready and willing" to play for Australia, and as soon as possible.

On hearing the announcement a week and a half ago that Johnston had been ruled ineligible to play for Scotland, the national team boss wasted no time getting in touch with the Liverpool midfielder to talk to him about his international career.

After listening to Arok's plans for the Socceroos, Johnston confirmed that he would love to take part.

Johnston already has been cleared by FIFA to play for Australia and all he is waiting on now is permission from the Liverpool board of directors.

"Obviously," said Arok, "it is going to be very hard to get

Johnston and our other overseas players together for three weeks, but I am hoping that Craig will be able to join us for at least one or two games in Australia this winter. It would be a tremendous boost for the team, and for the game, if he could play for us in our games against Everton and Manchester United."

"Although the rules governing eligibility have changed recently, I am also hoping that Craig will be able to play for us in the Olympic qualifying matches."

Liverpool is playing in Israel and Jordan at the end of the English season but if Johnston, who last year became the first Australian to score in an FA Cup Final, can get permission from his club, he will be able to come here after those matches.

Johnston already has spoken to Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish who is no stranger to the problem of playing club soccer in one country but playing international soccer for another country.

STOSIC BACK?



Warren Spink was in the wars at Olympic Park last Saturday night. Les Shorrock's picture shows the Footscray JUST player being carried off in his team's 2-1 win over Green Gully in the Buffalo Cup. But the good news for Jim Stosic is that yesterday Sekularac expects Partizan youth team player Alex Radivojevic to arrive in Australia within three weeks and is confident of bringing star midfielder Vlado Stosic back from Yugoslavia. Stosic made a huge impact on Australian soccer last year and currently is playing with Yugoslav Second Division club Majdanpek, on loan from Red Star Belgrade.

Pacific Challenge

It's all systems go for this year's inaugural South Pacific Challenge. The competition brings together Australia and New Zealand's top clubs from last season.

The game to be played in Auckland will bring together the two countries' Cup winners, North Shore and Sydney, and the older generation players from the two league champions, Mt Wellington and Adelaide Juventus. Both games should be played in March and the NSL is trying to time the Adelaide game to fit into SBS's television schedule which will also include the Ansett Challenge Cup match between this year's NSW State Bank Cup winner and Victoria's Buffalo Cup winner.

A major sponsor has been arranged and NSL spokesman Peter Russell, says that details will be announced shortly. The likely dates for the games are Sunday March 8 and Sunday March 15.

Details are to be released in the next week on the format this year for the National Cup. Last year it was sponsored by Nando's. If possible the games will be televised on SBS.

Partick star

heading for Croatia

By
CRAIG
MACKENZIE

Hennessy's wheeling and dealing won't end with Herd but the Croatia boss was tight-lipped about the identity of the other overseas player he is determined to sign.

Hennessy already has snared the signatures of Robbie Dunn from Adelaide Hellas and Jim MacLean and Andy Humble from Croydon. Dunn's transfer fee was \$22,000, MacLean's \$8,000 and Humble's fee was just \$1,500.

The Dunn fee was financed by Steve Gojevic's switch to Preston Makedonia for \$22,500.

Hennessy remains adamant that he'll sign both Alan Davidson and Alan Scott. Davidson, the former Socceroo, failed recently in his quest to gain a free transfer from South Melbourne Hellas, which listed him at \$35,000. The appeals board reduced that figure to \$30,000.



• Terry Hennessy

INSIDE

The power brokers of Australian soccer speak out — p.2 & 3; SA Ampol Cup — p.4; The Andrew Dettre Column — p.5; State Bank Challenge Cup — p.10; Eddie Krcevic and Mike Petersen set for glory in Europe — p.12; Focus on Croydon teenager Greg Brack — p.13; Joy for England, sorrow for Scotland — p.15.

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By
CRAIG
MACKENZIE

Just over two years ago Jack Reilly stood in front of club delegates from all over Victoria and delivered one of the most biting verbal salvos ever directed at a Victorian Soccer Federation board member at a public meeting.

It was the VSF's annual general meeting and Reilly was trying to oust Lou Stafraze from the independent seat on the board.

Reilly succeeded.

Just over three months ago Reilly went for broke. The target this time was Michael Weinstein, chairman of the VSF. Again Reilly succeeded.

Reilly now attends ASF executive meetings and is on the World Cup committee and already the rumor mongers areouting the former Socceroo as a future ASF president.

With good cause too. After all, this is the same Jack Reilly who was an outspoken critic of Sir Arthur George when Rale Rasic was sacked as national coach, isn't it? The Reilly who so often has lambasted the ASF for the way it treats former Socceroo greats and national team players in general, the Reilly who has been a loud disciple of the need for change and who has crowded about the contribution players can make at an administrative level for years.

Or is it the same man?

"Anyone who talks about me challenging Sir Arthur has got a hole in his head," said Reilly.

"I've been very vocal about the way Sir Arthur ran soccer in this country, in fact I'm still waiting for my gold medallion that was promised to me and all the players at Sydney airport in 1974 just before we left for the World Cup Finals in Germany. I'll also never come to terms with sacking a success coach like Rale Rasic, but I've got things in a slightly different light since sitting in on ASF executive meetings."

"I can tell you now, without elaborating too much, that if not for Sir Arthur George's personal involvement, the game would be pretty sick in this country but, at the same time, I ask myself why did we allow ourselves to get into such a situation."

"I really believe that the best thing that can happen the way things stand right now is for Sir Arthur to be seen up front in the Gold Cup tournament here next year and to

THE POWER

Reilly: Sir Arthur should bow out after Gold Cup

use that to bow out with grace and with a lot of style because that will be one of the biggest soccer events ever to be held in this country."

"Then let all the boys throw their marbles onto the table."

Now, that's the same Jack Reilly.

Will one of the marbles have the initials "JR" emblazoned upon it, or is Reilly planning a more covert, Dallas-style coup?

"Look, I've got to put up or shut up in Victoria first. Then, again, who knows? In time, if people think I'm doing a reasonable job and think that I could do a similar job at that level then I'd have to consider my position."

"Well, we had a few discussions and, to be honest, it got a bit fiery there for a while. People were standing up and yelling at each other but it settled down once we all realised that we were there to try to make the game better. That's the kind of thing that counts. For far too long, the people who support the game — the fans — have been getting a raw deal and it's up to people like us to change that."

Change has been the key-note struck in Reilly's speeches, not just at executive level but at public level. He claims that the ASF and VSF have been reactionary bodies, reacting to crises rather than establishing a structure and instituting policies which minimise the chances of such crises developing.

Reilly, Vito Ciauro, John Dimitris, Henry Siwka and John Branov last week held the first meeting of the VSF's forward planning and promotion committee which will take a long, hard look at the league structure of Victorian soccer and formulate a plan that will car-

ry soccer in Victoria into the 1990s.

"Is soccer structured correctly in Victoria? Is the current State League, Victorian League, Provisional League and Amateur League set up the right one? I don't think it is and the reason why it is set up was a no-holds-barred affair. We came up with a lot more wrongs than rights but it's our task to come up with a structure that will maximise the game's development. It will

take time, but changes will be made."

"It will also take time for the wounds inflicted by the Stafraze by Reilly's vitriol to heal."

While Reilly was winning the chairmanship of the VSF, Stafraze was winning back a place on the board. Does that mean that the VSF chairman doesn't enjoy the full support of his board?

"No, no way. Okay, I gave

Lou a hell of a bath back then but that's politics. The politicking is over now and it's down to hard work and Lou is a very hard worker."

"Michael Weinstein is a gentle-tempered man and to this day he's a good friend of mine. The way he won the chairmanship I made sure that Michael was made honorary life president of the federation and I invited Michael to every board meeting. In fact, he's only missed one. Michael Weinstein can't be lost to the game because he still has a very significant contribution to make."

The significance of Jack Reilly's contribution will become clearer in time but one thing's for certain — Reilly will speak his mind and he

will take a backward step

when confrontation looms.

"Take me and Sam Papasavas for example. We have

some slighty arguments from time to time but at the end of the day we still can

talk to each other. I suppose I have something of a love-hate relationship with Sam but if just one thing comes out of our arguments that helps Australian soccer then that

makes it all worthwhile.

Let's have democracy in Australian soccer

Your intrepid columnist begins this week's contribution by taking his hat off — well, figuratively speaking, that is — to our reader Joe Tonna and fellow contributor Andrew Dettre.

From these two gentlemen spring the germ of an idea a fortnight ago.

Andrew bemoaned the absence of any say by the long suffering soccer masses in deciding who actually runs the administration of the sport in the country.

On an adjoining page Joe responded to my musings about the ASF succession by putting forward Jack Reilly's name.

And what a marvellous

name it is.

Who among us fails to remember Jack's acrobatic feats between the sticks in years past?

It is the stuff memories are made of.

The throwing of his name into the ring, so to speak, only proves that others besides administrators and journoe are wondering about the post-Arthur George era.

Now then, it is London to a brick on, that the apparatchiks at the top of soccer's administrative pyramid will ignore paddings about opening up the field.

But there is still a way for soccer lovers to express their preferences in the run-up to 1988.

Do like Joe Tonna did. Grab pen and paper and drop a line to 'Soccer Action', letting us know who you think should be in charge of the Australian Soccer Federation — and why.

Perhaps just perhaps, if the powers that be see our pages full of the rank and file fans' suggestions week after week they may look outside their inner circle when it comes

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• Jack Reilly and John Constantine are two of the most powerful men in Australian soccer. Reilly is chairman of the Victorian Soccer Federation, Constantine is president of the NSW Soccer Federation, and both men are on the ASF executive and the ASF's World Cup committee. In their hands they hold the fortunes of aspirants to the national team coaching position and they can make decisions the effect of which reaches throughout the league structure of the game in their respective States. They also loom large on the horizon as future presidents of the ASF.



Straight Shooting with PETER SCOTT

the reality of Cypriot soccer — depressingly poor in quality and badly endowed with facilities — has also come as a bit of a shock.

Now Oscar wants to return home and soon.

Unfortunately, FIFA still

maintains that he is Aoranthosis property.

How long can we afford to be without a talent of Crino's calibre — and what can be done to help him?

Uproar over flying Frank

Faced with an almighty uproar from club members, Hakoah's soccer bosses last week tried to calm tempers in the wake of Frank Farina's sale to Marconi.

The reasoning offered was as follows:

Farina's contract was only to run until the end of the 1987 season, after which it stipulated a transfer fee of no more than \$15,000.

Ergo, \$32,000 in the hand now is much better than \$15,000 later this year.

Hakoah also claims the fleet-footed youngster, receiving triple the payments that he was contracted for with his former club.

Where that leaves Hakoah for the present, though, is anybody's guess.

Let's hope it's successful

It seems my recent musings about British visiting teams of years past touched a raw nerve with the Perth group organising the invasion planned for the coming winter.

I am genuinely sorry about that and, in fact, admire their spirit of adventure.

However, statements about all the stars coming on tour, managers giving their word to that effect and promises of hard battles for tens of thousands of dollars in prize-money induce a definite sense of déjà vu.

A first step in dispelling the cynicism of the media community will come when the touring parties are announced, or even better when they step off their planes in Australia.

Enthusiasm will be sky-high when we see all the big names on parade at our airports.

The next big test will come with the attitude of the British in their games.

This is where they fell down very badly in recent years.

The organisers are certain such problems will not exist this time around.



the road to the Olympic finals in 1988

Schuster v. Barcelona

Something very interesting is brewing in Spain around the scandalous state of relations between Barcelona and its former German enfant terrible Bernd Schuster.

The blond striker will have his day in the Spanish courts next month, seeking damages for defamation and wrongful dismissal by the Catalan club.

He hasn't been in action for some time now, following Barcelona's notification to the Spanish FA that Schuster is being removed from the official list of professional players in the country.

The reasoning? Mental instability, no less.

Schuster's lawyers point out that their client wasn't examined by any doctor prior to his dismissal, therefore the purported medical findings submitted to the national body are either forged or don't even exist.

Schuster's standing in the case is also boosted by the situation within the club.

Although leading the league, crowds are falling because of the predictable and downright boring style of Terry Venables' team.

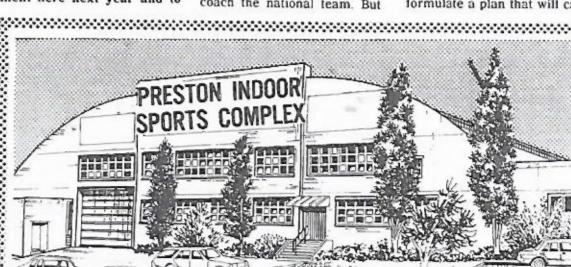
Barcelona imports Linekar and Higuita have not become crowd favourites, especially in the case of Hughes.

The rumor around Barcelona's bars talk of a large commission received by coach Venables out of Hughes' signing-on fee.

In the meantime, Real Madrid, Barcelona's deadliest enemy, is toying with the idea of signing the German.

Only two foreigners are allowed in Spanish teams, but of Real's Latin duo Argentine Valdano has applied to fix up citizenship, while Mexican striker Sanchez is offered from France.

If Schuster's move becomes reality the next time these two teams meet should be some



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BROKERS

By
CRAIG
MACKENZIE

John Constantine warily treads the same political path that Andrew Peacock now can walk down blindfolded.

Constantine, president of the NSW federation, is at the same time a budding candidate for the highest soccer office in the land and a supporter of ASF president Sir Arthur George.

"I have to downplay my ambitions. I am a strong supporter of Sir Arthur who had done a good job in very difficult circumstances," said Constantine.

"Sir Arthur has had so many battles to fight — mainly with the National League — and they've all come down to a question of money. He's tried to appeal to all the factions and he's had trouble with certain sponsors during his reign. I've got my fingers crossed that all the work he's put into organising the Gold Cup tournament here next year pays off because it really will be something to remember."

"Anyway, I've still got a huge job to do here (in NSW). We're the largest federation by far in terms of player registrations and there is a lot of work needed to continually improve the game in NSW."

Promotion youth always has been high on Constantine's list of priorities. He made that clear during his six-year term as president of Sydney Olympic.

"I didn't like imports. I was and remain more interested in the home-grown product. That's where the future of soccer lies in this country."

Instituted a youth policy at Olympic which produced players such as Peter Raskopoulos, Chris Kalantzis and Tony Dakos.

"I had a belief that rather than getting second raters from overseas we should get locals and if they were of Greek origin then that was a bonus for the club. It had a great effect on our public and Olympic remains one of the best supported clubs in the country."

It was at Olympic that Con-

Constantine: I have to downplay my ambitions

stantine confronted a problem that besets every club committee man. It was a head-on confrontation, one that led to his resignation.

"I suppose that I had no more or no less hassles than other people in trying to administer a soccer club but I've got no time for a situation in which supporters place pressure on people who are in honorary positions."

"I'm very critical of that situation and when I resigned from Olympic's board in 1982 all the sound, logical reasons for making decisions had gone."

"Only a few games were left before the end of the season and some members of the committee wanted to sack the coach, Doug Collins, just because we'd lost a few games. I was so distressed at that at that stage of the season. I told the committee that we were about to announce a \$200,000 sponsorship deal and that I didn't want it jeopardised. I said that if the coach was sacked then I would be forced to resign. Tom Doumanis, the current president of the club, supported me on this issue but we were outvoted. I think that some members of the committee didn't really expect me to leave but I did. It was an intolerable situation as far as I was concerned."

But Constantine didn't stay out of soccer. That would have been even more intolerable. From the day he arrived in Australia at the age of six from his native Cyprus, Constantine played soccer. He played for his school, for the western suburbs representative side, the

APIA Juniors, the now defunct Pan Hellenic and then, Granville AEK. His career was cut short in the early 1960s due to a heart murmur, a legacy of the rheumatic fever he suffered from as a child.

A successful academic period followed and Constantine has been a practising solicitor for many years. In 1975 his father, an avid Pan Hellenic fan, volunteered Constantine's services on an honorary basis to Pan Hellenic during the club's last annual general meeting at which its financial ruin was laid bare.

Constantine was involved on Pan Hellenic's behalf, in Supreme Court litigation and it was that experience which hardened his resolve to plunge headlong into soccer administration.

He joined Olympic's board in 1977 and almost immediately was appointed chairman. After his resignation, he spent 1983 "getting to know what was better" and coaching Pagewood's under 14s a "thoroughly enjoyable experience".

He was asked to join the NSW federation's board of management in 1984 and was elected president that same year. In 1986 he was rewarded for his work, not just in soccer, but throughout the community, when he was awarded the Order of Australia.

"That is the greatest honor ever bestowed upon me and my family and it's something that I treasure and will do always."

Constantine also is proud of the 65-acre development taking place at Valentine Park in

Parklea, the home of the NSW federation.

"Victoria's got a nice little house and I don't say that in a derogatory fashion but our complex is valued well in excess of \$10 million."

"It's a site that our forefathers bought and have slowly developed and it's named in honor of the man who had the foresight to buy it and remains my treasurer and one of my hardest working and most

loyal supporters."

Constantine officials to this day — Charles Valentine.

"We've got four soccer pitches, a large gymnasium with an administrative block and we'll eventually complete a 60-room motel thanks to a \$1 million grant from the State government. We'll also have a grandstand to seat 3000 people and a swimming pool. It will be a showpiece for soccer in NSW."

Constantine already has made his bid to preside over the NSW federation. He is on the Sydney Cricket Ground trust as is Nicholas Whiston, head of the State Bank of NSW, which now is the major sponsor of soccer in that State.

"I raised the possibility of sponsorship with Nick and it developed into one of the biggest things ever to happen to soccer in NSW. The three-year sponsorship is a tremendous breakthrough for our federation and is evidence of the positive attitude taken towards what we're trying to do by one of the most prestigious bodies in the State. That sponsorship will play an important part in the development of soccer in NSW."

Alex Ferguson and David Hay, managers of Manchester United and Glasgow Celtic respectively, have both personally assured Brian Haffenden, organiser of the Australian international tournament in June, that they will be bringing out their strongest sides possible and will be playing to win.

Meanwhile, Brian Clough, manager of Nottingham Forest, the other British team competing in the tournament against the Australian national team, has said he is looking forward to meeting Frank Arrok as they have similar reputations for being outspoken.

Last week 'Soccer Action' reported that Clough had apologised for an unguarded moment, calling African soccer nations "a load of spearthrowers who still go round eating each other".

The match schedule for the four-way tournament has been announced with one game each being played in Melbourne and Sydney, two games in Adelaide, and three games, including the final, to be played in Perth under lights at the WACA.

The three overseas teams competing have committed themselves to bringing over the strongest teams possible, barring injury or international commitments.

Scotland has a fixture which clashes with the early games of the tournament but it is understood that Celtic plans to fly out its Scottish internationals after the Scotland match if they can get here in time for the final games.

The schedule for the 1987 International tournament is:

Sydney: Monday, May 25, Australia v Nottm F. at Parramatta Stadium.

Melbourne: Wednesday, May 27, Australia v Man. Utd at Olympic Park.

Adelaide: Friday, May 29, Nottm F. v Celtic at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Saturday, May 30, Man. Utd. v Celtic at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Perth: Sunday, May 31, Nottm F. v Man. Utd at the WACA.

Tuesday, June 2, Celtic v Australia at the WACA.

Wednesday, June 3, Nottm F. v Australia at the WACA.

Thursday, June 4, double header finals — 4th v 3rd & 2nd v 1st at the WACA.

All games are being played at night under lights.

— JOHN MANGAN

ALEANDRA OR BO HILL?

H.U ALE ANDRA 0
BOX HILL 1 0

• Has anyone out there got an "X"? That's the message captured by photographer Les Shorrock's picture of the Olympic Park scoreboard last week. In what is the closest thing to a breakthrough in ethnic relations long supported by this journal, Olympic Park almost got it right when it decided to use the name

"Heidelberg United Alexandra" during that club's Buffalo Cup clash with Box Hill. But there was one slight hitch. Olympic Park only had one "X" available so it had to decide between H.U. Aleandra and Bo Hill. The Hillmen won the battle of the scoreboard but lost the match 2-0.

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2 — P. Kosmina (Polonia), F. Timar (Croatia), P. Wilde (Adel City), S. Amos (Campbelltown City), Steve Atsalas (Hellas).
1 — D. Pankhurst, C. Todd (Croatia), D. Kalinovic (Beograd), G. Konstandopoulos, J. Panagis (Hellas), D. Doorne, P. Sanderson, R. Piotrowski (Polonia), J. Mullen, J. Rodrigues (Adelaide City), R. Prestonski (Beograd), I. Cole, I. Dason, D. Moss (Para Hills).

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS 4 (Vidmar 29th, Melta 61st and 75th) **BEograd 0** at Hindmarsh Stadium. (Double-header). Crowd: 3,200. Cautions: Flounders, Melta, J. Mullen (ACJ), Greaves, Unerkov, Douglas, A. Brazza (Beograd). Referee: Tom McRoe 6.

ADELAIDE CITY McNally 8 (Marinelli 68th), Shilaberry 7, Flounders 7, Nyskohus 8, Tobin 7, Santac 7, Melta 9, Vidmar 7, Villani 6, (T. Mullen 68th), J. Mullen 8, Wilde 7 (Rodrigues 75th). Coach: Zoran Matic.

BEograd Pasquini 7, Kuzman 6, (Goldschmidt 72nd), Greaves 7, Unerkov 7, Alberton 7, Kalinovic 6, (Rusmir 59th), Douglas 7, Miller 7, A. Brazza 8, Arezina 6, Preston 6, Coach: Norman Lees.

PARA HILLS 3 (Dawson 32nd, Cole 60th, Moss 65th) **POLONIA 2** (Piotrowski 12th, Sanderson 33rd) at Hindmarsh Stadium (Double-header). Cautions: Nil. Referee: Tony Martell 8.

PARA HILLS M. Crook 7, Harvey 6 (Moss 1st, 8), Tomlinson 7, Horry 8, Cole 7, Leesbridge 6 (T. Blate 41st, 6), B. Crook 7, Coach: Barry Simpson 7, Edwards 6 (Clarke 67th). **Croatia** 7, D. Doorne 7, Peter Mullen 7, Harvey 7, Doorne 7, Panos 6 (Majewski 66th), Kosmina 7, Sanderson 7, Witwicki 6, Piotrowski 7, Coach: Adam Karpski.

Group A standings

| | W | D | L | F | A | PT |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Ad. Juventus | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | |
| Campbelltown | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| Beograd | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Salisbury | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 |

Group B standings

| | W | D | L | F | A | PT |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Ad. Hellas | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| Ad. Croatia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Para Hills | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| Polonia | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 0 |

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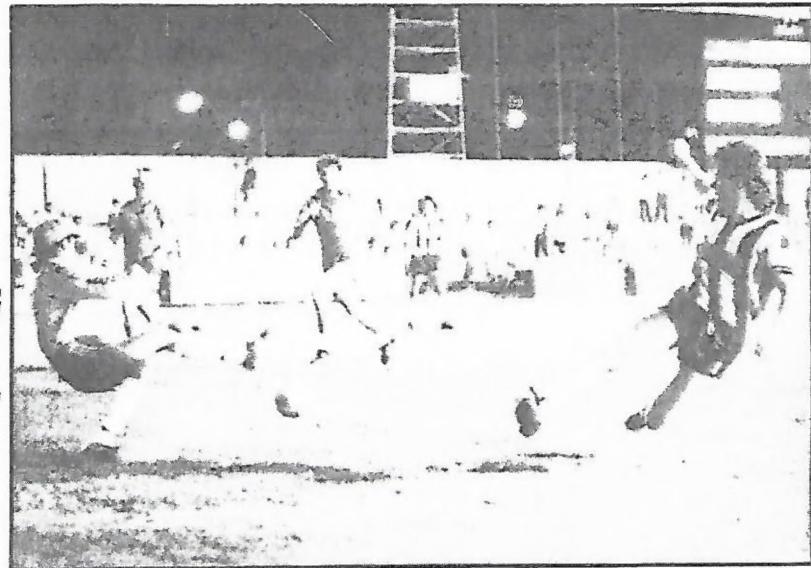
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• Aurelio Vidmar drives the ball past Beograd goalie, Frank Pasquini in Adelaide Juventus's 3-0 win over Beograd at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Polonia pushes Para's luck to the limit

Para Hills retained their semi-final chances with a twice-come-from-behind victory over Polonia.

Para entered the fray needing a substantial win to ensure major round participation and in the end had to settle for skin-of-the-teeth success.

Polonia grabbed the lead in the 12th minute through Rick Piotrowski and kept that advantage until Ian "Smoky" Dawson hit back in the 32nd minute.

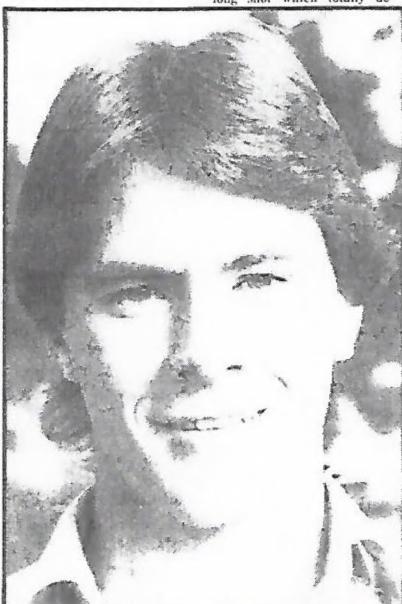
But while the Para players were celebrating that breakthrough, Paul Sanderson upset the form cart with a brilliant long shot which totally de-

ceived Martyn Crook in the Para Hills goal.

That was sufficient that Para still had it all to do, but it was not until Ian Cole scored in the 68th minute that the northerners were spurred to greater effort.

And the hero of the comeback was SA winger Darren Moss who came in after half time to replace Mark Harvey and crowned a fine aggressive display with a superb match-winning goal.

TO THE EDITOR



• Joe Mullen — the Juventus striker got special attention from Beograd.

Permit me, through your paper, to give my thoughts as to why I and many like me have stopped going to watch Australian soccer.

Modern-day soccer is in a rut with coaches encouraging defensive play rather than an attacking style of play. Players, especially those that are selected to lead during a match, tend to adopt a negative attitude and start wasting as much time as possible by kicking the ball out of play and indulging in those oh-so-boring back and square passes in defence which are enough to frustrate even the most ardent fan.

Unfortunately, physical strength has taken over from skill with players who want to play and show their skills being constantly cut down and kicked out of the game.

I know that it is far from easy to get a change in the rules of the game but I have some suggestions that I believe will make the game more honest and provide a spectacle most fans want to see.

To encourage attacking play I believe that we should award a bonus point for every five goals scored so that, for example, a team scoring 30 goals in the season would earn six bonus points. I also

believe that we should award three points for a win and retain the one point for a draw system we currently use.

To bring back flair and skill we should award a penalty for every five fouls committed in a match outside the penalty area — a team foul system other codes use successfully.

To stop players wasting time we need off-field timekeepers and time will be only recorded while the ball is in play.

I know that some of the critics will laugh and scoff at these suggestions but that's the sort of response Kerry Packer received from so-called cricket experts when Packer revolutionised that sport some 10 years ago. Look who's laughing now.

— Still love the game,
Moonee Ponds Victoria

SIR —

I read with interest Mr Dettre's comments regarding the America's Cup. His usual cynicism, which I find amusing, shone through again.

However I have to agree with him wholeheartedly about the excessive media hype regarding some insignificant and irrelevant "old boys" regard which the fair city of Fremantle had the misfortune of hosting.

For those of us who were nonplussed about the whole "event", to endure the media "beat-up" to saturation point was most excruciating to say the least.

When Andrew Dettre says that Africa, Asia and Europe couldn't give a damn about it, he obviously over-estimates the importance of the wretched thing in America itself.

The fact is that 90 percent of Americans have never heard of the America's Cup. It hardly rates a mention in the media over there, and apart from the rich Harvard boys in their navy blue blazers on Newport, Rhode Island, most Americans consider this thing as irrelevant as I do, if they consider it at all.

We should lament at the scant coverage our code receives in this country when you think of the resources and government money that went into the boat race.

Think of the facilities supported by soccer must endure in this country and the meagre funding which is directed towards it which is after all the most universally accepted code of football.

I can't help but think that had the World Cup been held in Australia, it probably would not have generated a third of the publicity that the media moguls directed towards a mere boat race.

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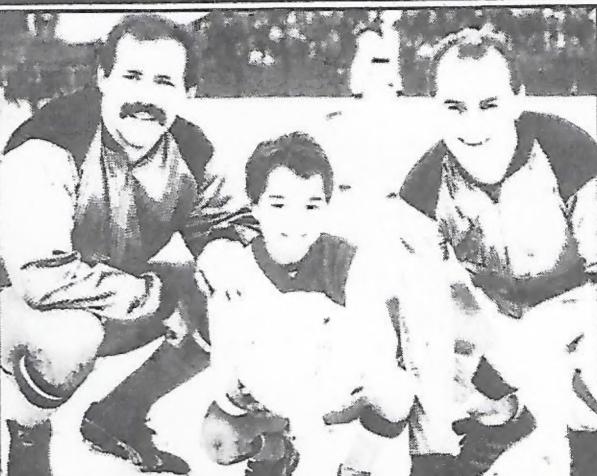
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OFF TO ABERDEEN



Tony Kennedy recently returned from a trip to the UK which could see the organiser of Melbourne's late-season World Cup competitions taking at least two teams to Glasgow next year to take part in Celtic's centenary celebrations.

Kennedy already has confirmed that he'll take Australian under 15, under 17 and under 19 teams to the UK in July for a three-week trip culminating in the 1987 Aberdeen International Football Festival.

The touring party already numbers more than 100 and will leave on July 3 for a two-week stint in England based at Southport in

Lancashire. Kennedy has arranged accommodation in self-catering chalets for just \$140 a fortnight and has arranged games against teams from Blackburn Rovers and Preston North End.

The picture above shows Kennedy's son, John, enjoying his first visit to Blackburn's home ground, Ewood Park, where he was the team mascot for Rovers' clash with Grimsby Town. At right is Rovers' defender Chris Price with team mate Micky Rathbone also pictured.

The Aberdeen International Football Festival is in its seventh year and teams from 22 countries will participate.

For students of demography, there is enough material in the National Soccer League to last an entire conference.

As the 14 teams are tooling up to begin the 11th NSL campaign, one cannot help but remember the innumerable falsehoods and lies of previous years about the "pending Australianisation" of our soccer.

Or maybe they weren't lies, merely incorrect prophesies, hugely mistaken diagnoses based on the seemingly simple "truth" that sooner or lat-

er, soccer will be acceptable to the population at large...

This, of course, has not happened and probably will not happen: the true-blue, dinky-di, non-ethnic Australians of this great land will embrace soccer when they swap their Fourex for Chianti, their meat pie for empanada, and their lamb chops for raznic.

So be it. I don't see why we should bemoan this fact for ever: we know what they are missing.

At the same time, we shouldn't be too embarrassed about the composition of our NSL. The media still will largely ignore soccer, especially commercial television, which is chasing ratings and advertising dollars.

But, speaking truthfully, how ethnic is our topflight soccer, this NSL?

Completely, totally and absolutely. ALL the 14 clubs have the financial and organisational support of various ethnic groups.

And, as every honest observer will admit, 90 per cent or more of our crowds are also first-generation "ethnics".

For the first time since the start of the NSL in 1977, there is not a single non-ethnic club in the field!

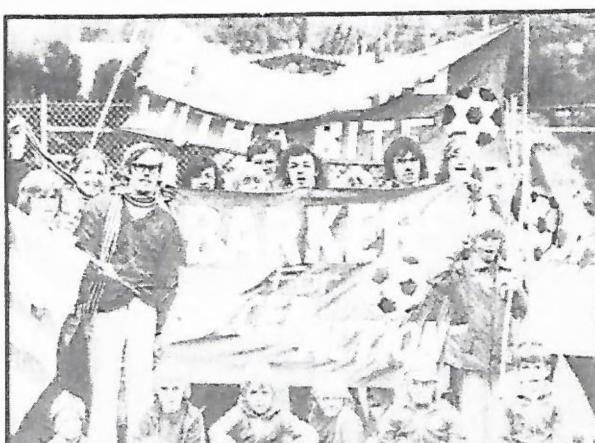
Broadly speaking, we have four clubs backed by the Italian community, three by the Greek, four by sub-ethnic groups now residing in Yugoslavia and one apiece by Hungarians, Jews and Maltese.

That makes it a total of 12 clubs out of the 14 which originate from the Mediterranean and two which could be called Central Europeans (St George and Hakoah).

The trend is quite clearly towards more Italian and Greek influence in the future, mainly because the migrant colonies are so numerous and so fiercely homogeneous.

I wouldn't be a bit surprised if within two or three years, the NSL would include only clubs with Italian, Greek, Balkan, Croatian, Serbian, Macedonian etc. support.

After all, where are now the clubs of the Czech, Dutch, Austrian, Polish, Ukrainian and other "colonies" which once played such a vital role in the various State Leagues of Australia?



Flashback to 1977 — this is how things used to be at Mooroolbark, one of the NSL's founder members, but the club's NSL status lasted just one year.

was relegated and almost disappeared.

Western Suburbs lasted two seasons, 1977 and 1978, before packing it in — despite some ambitious schemes to introduce professional players and greyhound races at half-time...

Blacktown was part of the NSL twice, for a total of five seasons, without ever building a solid local support. Penrith — and I hate to say this — went the way I had predicted, into oblivion, after two miserable seasons.

None of them is still in the NSL in 1987.

Mooroolbark, Wests and Penrith play in a very minor league, if not at junior level, while the others will now be part of the NSW State League.

Actually, even Canberra and Newcastle have gone through some metamorphosis in recent years.

Canberra, once a non-ethnic or multi-ethnic, city club of the national capital, has gone Greek. Newcastle United, once independent, has gone broke and has been taken over by the Adamstown Rosebud club.

Mooroolbark played in only one NSL season, in the first, when it was involved in a group for swinging the studenty anti-NSL Victorian clubs around. At the end of 1977 it

is interesting finally to have a look at the performances of these seven "district" clubs over the years.

Between them, they spent 35 seasons in the NSL. In that period, only one of them, Wollongong, reached the top four once, coming third in 1982. But on 17 occasions they occupied bottom four positions, often being saved only through their now abolished "development status".

What about the 1987 season soon to start?

You don't have to be even a minor prophet to predict that the keenest struggle for supremacy will be staged by some of the 12 "Mediterranean" clubs. (In case you think I use this term disparagingly: I love the Mediterranean. Marconi, Olympic, the two Croatias, South Melbourne Hellas and Juventus should hog most of the limelight.)

It's very hard to see the composition of the NSL change dramatically in the next few years: "district" clubs will find it very difficult to match the enthusiasm (madness), financial effort (lavish overspending) and club loyalty (fierce patriotism) of the "ethnics".

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Tsolakis back in top gear

Heidelberg 2
Box Hill 0

Scorers: Tsolakis 17th, 51st.

While Box Hill stumbled and fumbled to get forward on a few occasions, Peter Tsolakis was scoring two goals and threatening to regain the form that won him the 1986 Buffalo Cup Player of the Series award.

It's fair to say that Tsolakis was then well below best in the Buffalo Cup but he started buzzing about in the second half of this match, admittedly against pitifully poor opposition down Heidelberg's left flank.

Box Hill coach George Murray had to use five men at the back. Dean Hennessy and Andy McMillan were picking up Laurie McKenna and Andy Deeley, Craig Davidson was

Man of the match:
PETER TSOLAKIS
(Heidelberg)

brating what they thought was the opening goal. Roodhouse's long free kick from the left was headed down at the far post by McMillan and Phil Griffin tapped it in only to be ruled offside.

Shortly after, Tsolakis played the ball inside from wide on the left to Claude Lucchesi but he blasted his long-range attempt well over.

Then came Heidelberg's first goal. In the 17th minute McKenna headed on to the near post following a long throw-in and the incoming Tsolakis, at the back post, slammed the ball into goal from eight metres.

A minute into the second half John Anastasiadis headed down to Lucchesi whose well struck shot flashed just wide of the post.

Within seconds of Damien Mori's miss, Deeley should have made it 2-0. Lucchesi's cross from the right flashed across the face of goal. Deeley charged in and got a foot to the ball but pushed it over from just four metres.

But Tsolakis struck again in the 51st minute and there was no way that the Hillmen could get back into the contest. Box Hill was badly caught out on

the break with Thomastown relaxing. Peter Constantinou found space through the middle and blasted a fierce shot past a hapless Tony Raponi.

Soon after, Chris Bekiaris found a similar space and sprinted past George McMillan who tried desperately to win the ball back but could only trip Bekiaris which resulted in a penalty. Bekiaris took the kick and levelled the scores.

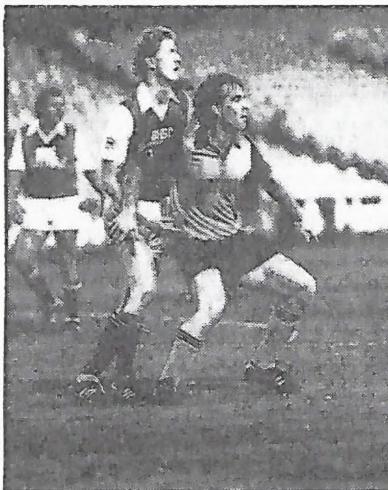
After the break, Northcote came out with all guns firing. It wasn't long before Alex Gymnopoulos found himself in the clear after Tom Patsakos elegantly tapped the ball past the Thomastown defence, for Gymnopoulos to put Northcote ahead.

Play flowed from end to end, but Northcote showed more organisation. Prime Thomastown movers in the first half such as Athersych and Brian Coyle were well marked which allowed Northcote to get forward more freely.

With 10 minutes left, the match still was in the balance. Phil Diamataris picked up a loose ball in midfield and put Carlos Romeros through. His shot was smothered but he still managed to chip the ball back to Diamataris who headed home the sealer.

Thomastown, not to be outdone, went forward and when Athersych scrambled home his second, the only thing against Thomastown was time, which ran out.

• This historic picture shows the original members of the Arsenal Football Club way back in 1886. Arsenal's exploits since then are immortalised in an exciting new video celebrating the club's centenary.



• Box Hill defender Dean Hennessy isn't letting former teammate and new Heidelberg striker Laurie McKenna escape his clutches. Heidelberg won this Buffalo Cup clash 2-0. Picture: LES SHORROCK.

the break as Tsolakis motored toward goal, shrugged off McPhee's half-hearted challenge and slipped the ball past the advancing McKinlay to make it 2-0.

A minute later the Hillmen were caught out again but Deeley messaged up a good combination between himself and Tsolakis when his shot went well wide of the far post.

Three minutes were left when referee Ziggy Minch decided that Davidson had fouled McKenna inside the area. Deeley walked up to the penalty spot but struck his attempt wide.

Just before full time, Hennessy received his second caution of the Buffalo Cup series.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Northcote wins Cup

NORTHCOTE 4 (P. Constantinou, Bekiaris, Gymnopoulos, Diamataris) THOMASTOWN 3 (Athersych 2, Higgins) in 3EA Charity Shield match at John Cain Reserve, Sunday.

NORTHCOTE: Gianopoulos (Turudis, H.T.), Lenardis, Pantazis, Kotsopoulos, J. G. Constantinou, Bekiaris, Stoll (H.T., Romeros), Gymnopoulos, Diamataris, Patsakos, P. Constantinou. Coach: John Tora.

THOMASTOWN: Raponi, Arcoraci, Pianalto, MacMillan, Carfora (Temos), Kerr, Constantinou, Di Martino, Coyle, Athersych, Higgins. Coach: Mike Lynn.

Northcote fought back dramatically after being two goals down early in the match and went on to record a fine win in the inaugural ZEA Charity Shield.

Northcote, which won the 1986 Hellenic Cup and Thomastown, the 1986 Coppa Italia, displayed excellent form with the first game of the season still some weeks away.

It was Thomastown which took the initiative and with a more direct approach found itself up 2-0 with Andy Higgins and Russell Athersych posting their opening goals for 1987.

Northcote was not to be out-

done. With Thomastown relaxing, Peter Constantinou found space through the middle and blasted a fierce shot past a hapless Tony Raponi.

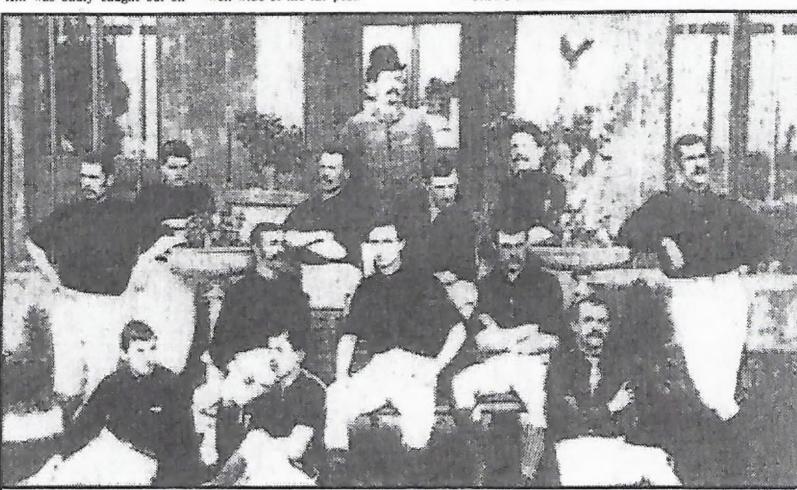
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With this package of new releases also comes "Arsenal: 1886-1986", a 100-year review of Britain's most famous and glamorous soccer club.

The thrilling cup finals, from the archives of the BBC, are:

• The 1964 FA Cup Final: Presented in its full length, this original black-and-white recording, this thrilling match was played between West Ham United and Preston North End. In one of the most dramatic finals in the history of the Cup, West Ham wrested the lead from Preston in the dying minutes of the game to win the Cup for the first time.

• The 1966 FA Cup Final: This game between Everton and Sheffield Wednesday, also presented in its full length, is memorable for the outstanding performance turned in by both teams so much so that Sheffield became the first ever Wembley loser to do a lap of honor at the finish.

• The 1979 FA Cup Final: A replay of the full-length match between Arsenal and Manchester United, which featured a sensational climax in the last four minutes of the game. Behind 2-0, United suddenly drew level with two goals in less than two minutes. A reeling Arsenal then went on to achieve the impossible — snatching the winner in the very last minute.

Arsenal: 1886-1986 is the official centenary video of Arsenal Football Club, a name which conjures up magical memories of the greatest moments in the history of soccer. This 91-minute history, which includes some original black-and-white footage, looks back on some of these moments, featuring many of the great players who have become legends in their own right.

Virgin Polygram Video also has announced that it will soon be releasing another three thrilling FA Cup Finals matches the 1973, 1974 and 1977 Cup Finals.

For soccer buffs and all-round sports fans alike, these are a prized collection to take pride of place in one's own video library.

They are available for purchase through video retailers and for further information, contact Kathy McKerrow, Virgin Polygram Video, Unit A, 122 McEvoy St, Alexandria, NSW 2015.

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With less than a week to go before the Fawkner Cup Final, the host club has transfer-listed goal-keeper Robert Terzini and put a \$3,500 price-tag on his head.

Coach Frank McAleer is replacing the long-serving goal-keeper Charlie Karmas who signed last week from Wilhelmina. He has also just signed striker Peter Verechia from Morwell Falcons for \$3,500 to strengthen the squad.

Fawkner has reached the final of this tournament and meets Polonia in the all-State League Cup Final on Sunday, which kicks off at 4pm on Sunday afternoon, is worth \$1,000 to the winning team.

The curtain-raiser to the final will be the play-off for third place between Crows and Broadmeadows.

Top-liners at Nuna

Nunawading City has announced that it has a strong coaching staff for season 1987.

The senior coach is former Blacktown Rovers and Sheffield United professional, Derek Hurleson, who also coached a number of teams in the UK. The youth team coach is former Shrewsbury Town and Prahran Slavia player Tony Harris who has previously coached at Waverley City and Doveton.

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Irishmen for Coburg

Coburg coach Billy Millen has signed two players from Northern Ireland and expects them to arrive in Australia shortly.

Eugene McInerney is a winger from Newry Town and will be Coburg's sole temporary visa player while Portadown centre forward Mark Tweedie is coming to Australia on a holiday visa.

Millen also hopes to sign former Sunbury player John Catterson from Albion Turk Guci.

Millen was keen to point out to 'Soccer Action' that Coburg will play in a Glasgow Rangers strip this season.

"And anyone seen kicking around an orange ball at training will be suspended for six months," said the Coburg coach.

Millen expects big things from Coburg in 1987.



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Croatia in the box seat

MATCH DETAILS

HEIDELBERG 2 (Tsolakis 17th, 51st) **BOX HILL 0** at Olympic Park, last Wednesday night. Crowd: about 1,000. Caution: Hennessy (BH). Referee: Ziggy Minch 5.

HEIDELBERG Oliver 7 — Pappas 7, Ketsakidis 7, Selemidis 7, Tsolakis 8 — Anastasiadis 7 (Deligianis 43rd), Lucchesi 7, Karakousis 6 (Volentz 56th), Tsolakis 8 — McKenna 7, Deneely 6, Coach: Roy Macrae. **BOX HILL** McKinlay 6 — Davidson 5 — McPhee 3 (J. Mori 53rd), A McMillan 4, D. Hennessy 4, A. Roodhouse 5 — Brimmer 3 (McDaid 59th), Bell 6, White 5 — D. Mori 4 (Mazzagatti 46th), Griffin 5. Coach: George Cross.

GEORGE CROSS 2 (Edwards 33rd, McLaren 60th) **FRANKSTON PINES 1** (Miller 49th) at Olympic last Wednesday night. Caution: Thurlow (FP), Parton (GC). Crowd: about 1,000. Referee: 6.

GEORGE CROSS Keogh 6 — March 7, Parton 7, Taylor 6, Campbell 6 — Mitten 5, Innes 7 (MacLaren 56th), Bain 5, Markovski 7 — Gilder 6. **FRANKSTON PINES** Boland 5 — Thurlow 7, Bozic 6, Park 6, Cumming 5, Mori 7, Cullen 7, Watson 6, Feris 6 — Armstrong 6, Hennessy 7, Coach: Danny McMinimee.

FOOTSCRAY JUST 2 (Tapai penalty 41st, Spink 47th) **GREEN GULLY 1** (Cumming 71st) at Olympic Park, last Saturday night. Crowd: about 3,500 (double header). Caution: Quigley, Fraser (GG). Referee: Ziggy Minch 4.

FOOTSCRAY JUST Vlajnic 8 — Curovic 5, James 7, Karic 7, Barjakovic 3 (Bjork 17th, H. 30th), Mori 7, Tapai 7, Spink 7 — Obrazdovic 3, Lazopoulos 5, Luton 2, Coach Dragosav Sekularac.

GREEN GULLY Denys 6 — Hogben 6, Cannell 7, Grimaud 6, Douglas 6 — Fraser 5, McLelland 5, Quigley 3, Carter 4 — Cumming 7, Ward 5. Coach: Gus Macleod.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 3 (Zinni 18th, 34th, Durakovic 26th) **PRESTON MAKEDONIA 1** (Cole pen. 25th) at Olympic Park last Saturday night. Crowd: about 3,500 (double header). Referee: Peter Mateski 5.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS Mariana 6 — Lewis 6, Vesnaver 6, Yezdorm 7, Inancal 7 — Culen 8, Grbic 7, Durakovic 7, Patterson 7 — Zinni 8, Lane 6. Coach: Len McKendry.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA Traianedes 1 — McLennan 6, Dobson 7, Ospasins 7, Jackson 7 — Gojevic 7, Roodhouse 6, van Egmond 6, Silivaskas 5 (Iloski 50th) — Cole 6, Heys 7. Coach: Billy Murray

Group A standings

| | W | D | L | F | A | PI |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Sunshine George Cross | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Melbourne Croatia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Preston Makedonia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| Brussels Juventus | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| St Albans Dinamo | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Frankston Pines | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 1 |

Group B standings

| | W | D | L | F | A | PI |
|------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| South Melbourne Hellas | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 6 |
| Heidelberg Alexander | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Green Gully | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Footscray JUST | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Box Hill | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 2 |
| Croydon City | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

PLAYER OF THE SERIES

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On the back of a hat-trick, Andrew Marth moved to within striking distance of the lead when he shared the points with John Markovski in George Cross's game against Frankston Pines.

St Albans Dinamo's Rob Krkjaic and Croatia's Mark Taisic will be well placed if they pick up votes from the games that were postponed on Friday night due to the flooding of the Olympic Park pitch.

Here are last week's votes:

Sunshine George Cross v Frankston Pines: 25 — Markovski (GC), Marth (GC); 1 — Miller (FP).

Brunswick Juventus v Preston Makedonia: 3 — Zinni (BJ); 2 — Culen (BJ); 1 — Durakovic (BJ).

Heidelberg v Box Hill: 3 — Tsolakis (Hd); 2 — Ketsakidis (Hd); 0.5 — Pappas (Hd), McKenna (Hd).

Footscray JUST v Green Gully: 3 — James (JUST); 1.5 — Vlajnic (JUST), Karic (JUST).

Leading votegivers:

7 — Zinni (BJ); 6 — Krkjaic (St. A.D.), Marth (GC), Selemidis (Hd), van Egmond (PM); 5.5 — Taisic (MC); 5 — Brown (CC), Traianedes (SMH); 4.5 — Karic (JUST), Vlajnic (JUST); 4 — Egan (SMH), Sliwaskas (PM); 3.5 — Ketsakidis (Hd); 3 — Cumming (GG), Douglas (GO), Gojevic (PM), James (JUST), Tsolakis (Hd), White (BH).

Rangers win Geelong Cup

The dark blue ribbon of Hamlyn Rangers adorned the Geelong Advertiser Cup last weekend but the game against East Geelong was decided only with a superb goal in the dying minutes.

Rangers took out the trophy for the first time in the club's history when it defeated East 1-0. But Rangers had to battle all the way against the determined underdogs.

Rangers started nervously and East took advantage by pushing forward in search of an early goal.

As the game progressed, Rangers gained confidence and Friley clipped a neat volley over the bar after some tidy work from Andy Munro.

The pace was fast and furious but Rangers took a grip on the game and forced East to concede ground.

Hamlyn took the field with a slight breeze after the interval and East let Rangers know that there would be no love lost in the cup final.

Branko Krstevski could have sealed the game for East when the ball drifted through a crowded penalty box to his feet.

The striker looked up, hesitated, and Keith Appleby hooked the ball away.

Minutes later, East defender, Tony Stojanovski, received his marching orders after clashing with Wally Stojanovski.

As spectators prepared for extra time, the deadlock was broken by a gem of a goal.

More gathered the ball 10 metres from goal and let fly with a

Melbourne Croatia will be in the box-seat on Saturday night in its game against Makedonia which will be clinging to its last chance of making the Buffalo Cup semi-finals after last week's defeat at the hands of the Juventus.

Croatia, with a game against St Albans Dinamo in hand, can afford to draw this match against a Makedonia side which just couldn't get its game going in its last two games against State League opposition to reach the finals. The fact that Helias has disposed of all opposition effortlessly so far could count against it in a contest which pits it against a team eager to convince the world that it is worth a place in the NSL.

Gully will prove no easy target for Helias and the Helias team should be too strong for Macleod's side and should cement its place at the top of Group B.

The late match on Friday night will be between Sunshine George Cross and Albans Dinamo. Tony Vrana's Dinamo team goes into the year's Buffalo Cup series.

Anton Lemezina was taken off by Coach Terry Hennessy in Croatia's last game but he has shown enough class to make him a man Makedonia will have to watch if they want to come out of this game with the points.

Paul Lewis couldn't find the back of the net in Croatia's draw with George Cross but he will be well placed to get his head in the top of the goal during this evening's game.

Following its defeat at the hands of Footscray JUST on Saturday night, Green Gully now needs a minor miracle to qualify for the Buffalo Cup semi-finals. More specifically, it needs Jim Tansey's Croydon team to do it a favor and beat either Helias or Heidelberg in its last two remaining games. If Croydon, which has yet to win a game, can pull off a 1-0 defeat either of the Greek giants, Gully then needs to beat Helias in its game on Friday night to qualify.

It seems too much to hope and if Helias can score early in Friday night's encounter Gully

night to qualify.

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Meanwhile, Makedonia's Graham Heys was making his presence felt as he teamed up with Anthony Cole in the Preston front-line.

Coming from their convincing 4-0 defeat of Frankston in the last round, the failure of Mark van Egmond to stamp his personality on the game may well have cost Bill Murray's men the points.

Juve piled on the pressure from the start forcing three corners in the first five minutes.

Mehmet Durakovic, who had been moved up from the back-line to Juve's midfield, powered through on the left in the 13th minute and cut the ball back to Sean Lane who blasted wide.

Meanwhile, Makedonia's Graham Heys was making his presence felt as he teamed up with Anthony Cole in the Preston front-line.

However, it was Andrew Zinni who set this game alight in the 18th minute when he sprinted onto a ball from Rob Cullen who had carefully timed his pass to keep Zinni outside. With the rain starting to come down in sheets, Zinni's low, hard shot from the edge of the area proved unstoppable.

At the other end Graham Heys made a great little run

minutes later won a penalty when Anthony Grbac handled the ball. Cole made absolutely no mistake with the spot-kick.

Less than a minute later though, Zinni was again in the action. An attempted one-two with the strong-running Scott Patterson didn't come off but Makedonia could only clear the ball as far as Durakovic who was lurking on the edge of the box.

Durakovic's first-time shot rocketed past Phil Traianedes to put Juve back in front.

Cullen was everywhere for Juve and had a free-kick to the near post just before half-time sealed Makedonia's fate.

And it was Man-of-the-Match, Zinni who caught the defence flat-footed darting in to deflect the ball into the back of the net.

While not showing their devastating form of the first half, Juve continued to make the better chances in the second period. Zinni sent a lovely through ball to Cullen but his cross was too high for the incoming forwards.

In the 61st minute it took a good tackle by Steve Jackson to stop Cullen's break and two minutes later Cullen again floated a cross which went across the face of goal to Anthony Grbac who shot it back into the middle but no Juve forward could get the vital touch.

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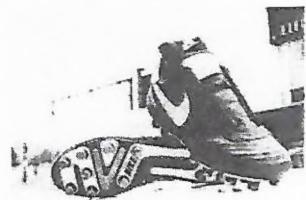
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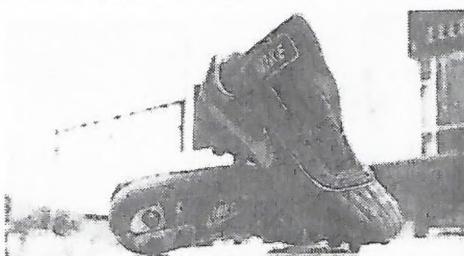


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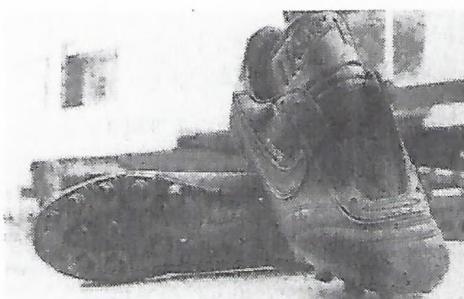


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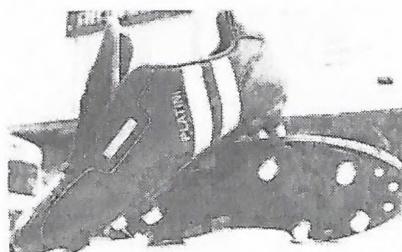
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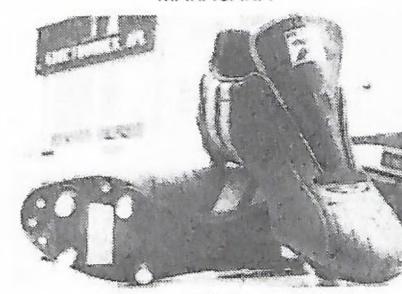
PATRICK



PLATINI

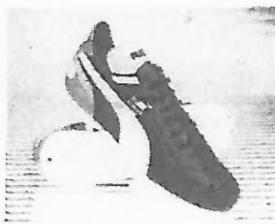


MARACANA



TORINO

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ACHILLES WEDGE



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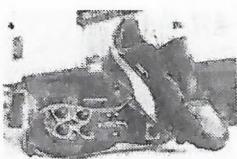


MEXICO



WORLD CUP

ALLISONS SPORTS



MARADONA STAR

1987



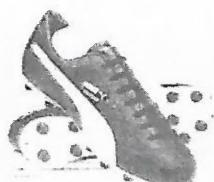
RANGE



RAPID



MARADONA 10



SPIRIT



SUPER BOOT



DERBY

OLYMPIC CRASHES!



State Bank Cup
with ALEX VESIC

Sydney Olympic, the glamor side of Australian soccer, crashed out of the 1987 State Bank Challenge Cup following its defeat at the hands of Blacktown City at St. George Stadium on Sunday.

The side filled with many present and past internationals looked second rate in comparison with this fast, strong-willed, young outfit from Sydney's west.

Raul Blanco was in charge of the young Demons due to the absence of Les Scheinfug. The young youth coach was operated on last week but the news of his team's success over Olympic reached the hospital minutes after the match was over.

"I am very happy for Blanco and the boys, and I wish I was with them now," said Scheinfug.

Never one to predict results, Scheinfug would not be drawn into discussion on his team's chances in the semi-finals. To add to our problems the draw was conducted late last night (Tuesday) making it impossible for 'Soccer Action' to bring it to you.

Other semi-finalists are Croatia and Marconi as well as another State League club — Marconi Eagles.

Marconi and Croatia have looked awesome in their matches so far and at this stage must be favored to reach the final should the draw pit the two State League clubs against the NSL teams. However, don't discount Melita and Blacktown. The two sides are favored to battle it out for the NSW State League Premiership and a place in the final for 1988.

Let's look at last weekend's big quarter-final clashes.

Melita Eagles 2 APIA 1

At St. George Stadium
Scorers: Farrugia 29th,
Farnsworth 85th (ME); Tredinnick 45th (A).

Melita brushed aside yet another NSL giant on its way into the semi-finals of the State Bank Challenge Cup by defeating APIA Leichhardt in a close tussle with the winner being scored in the closing stages of the match.

The Eagles looked shaky at the start and Burim Zajmi gave Billy Griffiths some anxious moments on the flank. With Tony Cabassi, the 17-year-old fullback, being pushed into the centre of Melita's defence, which was expected of APIA's expensive imports Brown, Baran and Zajmi.

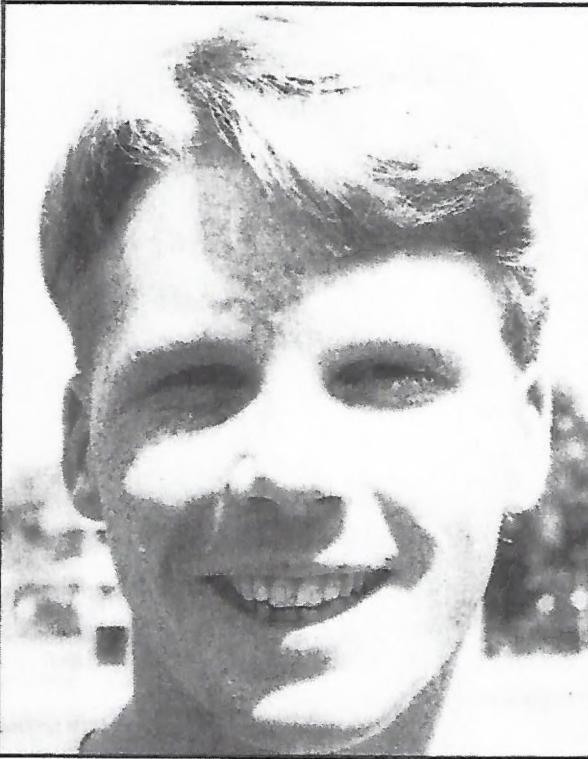
Rod Brown failed to have a shot at goal during the entire match, Baran had a single free kick to his name and only Zajmi showed any enterprise. The import players, worse, APIA looked all at sea at the back with Arno Belogna and to an extent Mark Brown the only players to come away with their reputations unharmed.

After some early jitters, Melita settled down and started to stroke the ball about looking for an opening. APIA waited for Melita to come at it realising that the offside trap set by Melita could be exploited.

Anthony Parison made the break in the 13th but was caught at the last moment by the sliding Griffiths who did enough to prevent APIA from scoring.

Peter Tredinnick made the break in the 24th but his shot from 16 metres was well saved by Pupovac.

Then came Melita with Greg Brown having a solid opening in the 28th. He rose high to meet a cross and with the goal at his mercy headed straight at Pezzano. Seconds later, a John Foxman short jab finished at



• Sydney Croatia striker Robbie Slater — scored a hat-trick against Sutherland in Croatia's 3-0 win last weekend.

the feet of Ray Farrugia who waltzed into the penalty area then hit a scorching drive which eluded Pezzano.

Foxman could have made it 2-0 after 35 minutes following a cross by Ken Wilson. Pezzano managed to touch the ball but only to Foxman who could not control it.

Then came a fierce drive by Greg Brown from a free kick which sailed past Pezzano and just wide of the post. Edward Lorens cleared off

the line after Wayne Farnsworth made the break with two minutes remaining in this half, then came the equaliser right on half time.

The goal, a beautiful one at that, was tucked away one at the first half, even though no injury time or time added was signalled during this half.

Instead of a comfortable lead, Melita shared the spoils at the halfway mark and all was set for a great struggle in the second period.

APIA took Lorens off and added Dounis to its forward line but to no avail.

The Eagles looked at least a yard faster and accordingly had more chances. The second half started with Tredinnick almost sealed it for APIA when he thundered a right footer from some 25 metres only to see Dragan Pupovac make the best save of the day.

Ray Farrugia tried a similar shot at the other end but Pezzano stopped the ball. Seconds later though, Pezzano failed to stop a shot by Farnsworth which flew into goal from some 25 metres to give Melita Eagles a place in the semi-finals for the second year in a row.

Before this match I was prepared to accept APIA as one of the title contenders for 1987 but I am afraid that on this performance APIA would not rate near the top 10.

**Blacktown 1
Sydney Olympic 0**

At St. George Stadium
Scorer: Naumov 13th.

Bobby Naumov, a discarn from Sydney Olympic, returned to St. George Stadium to take sweet revenge on his old side.

He shot one past Gary Maier in the 13th, then missed on a couple of other occasions but his first effort was sufficient to see Blacktown City through to the semi-finals.

Maier had to get down to the first effort by Naumov in the 8th, but he was not so lucky the second time around as Naumov raced in to pick up a short pass by Kay to slam it into the corner of the net.

Steve Watson was then called upon to make some superb saves before Blacktown assumed complete control. Watson saved from a superb shot by Raskopoulos then from a header by Soper, but that alone was all Sydney Olympic could throw at Watson.

Playing with rare maturity, the Demons overwhelmed Sydney Olympic. The Blacktown youngsters played one-twos with the speed and gusto of seasoned professionals. Those who rarely go to the matches could have been thinking that this free-flowing soccer was coming from Olympia.

Its strength at the back was obvious. Ralph Maier shackled Chris Kalantzis, Kosmina could do little to erode the confidence of Kurt Reynolds or

against Darren Northam. To make matters worse, Olympic never changed things, with its formation strictly 4-3-3.

For 77 minutes Olympic was a goal behind, but only in the last few minutes did Dakos and Ratcliffe come forward looking for an opening!

By then the horse had bolted!

Had Olympic decided to take a more flexible line using Tony Dakos as an extra forward and having Kalantzis and Soper interchange with Kosmina, then the youngsters of Blacktown would have had a chance.

As it was, Paul Kay dominated in midfield while Elliot, Jeffrey and Sandy never gave Olympic a moment of peace.

For the second time in the last few weeks Olympic suffered the ignominy of being beaten for the first time by Sutherland in their 0-0 draw.

**Syd. Croatia 3
Sutherland 0**

At Marconi Stadium
Scorers: Slater 9th, 15th,
33rd.

Robbie Slater, 'Soccer Action's' NSL Player of the Year for 1986, blitzed Sutherland Shire at Marconi Stadium on Saturday night to give his side a decisive victory.

Croatia came at Sutherland firing on all cylinders and created seven clear-cut chances during the opening 45 minutes. However, some poor management in front of goal and some superb goalkeeping by Craig Burchmore saw Sutherland only three goals down at half time.

Graeme Arnold shied his head in disbelief as Burchmore flung his arm out in a reflex action to make an early save after Drago Rezo made the break on the right hand side.

Only a minute later another from the left hand side, saw Graham Jennings go up to head the ball but was denied by another superb reflex save from Burchmore.

Burchmore was beaten soon after following a superb cross by Slater six minutes later from a short pass by Wally Soper. Soper saw Burchmore was beaten for the second time. Slater rifled his shot from just inside the box giving the Sutherland keeper no chance.

Arnold faced Burchmore soon after but shied wide, before Slater completed his hat-trick in the 33rd. A cross by Manis Lamond saw Slater race in to score from some seven metres.

Arnold, Soper, Lamond and Odzakov had point blank shots during one of the most one-sided 45 minutes seen in this competition.

Sutherland was so overwhelmed by its first effort by

BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (Naumov 13th) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 7150. Referee: Greg Peacock.

BLACKTOWN CITY Watson 9. — Maier 8, Starrey 8, Reynolds 8, Northam 7. — Jefferey 7, Kay 8, Ellam 7, Sandy 8, Naumov 8, Van Blerk 6 (Shape 80th). Coach: Raul Blanco (caretaker).

SYDNEY OLYMPIC Meier 7. — Dragicevic 6, Ratcliffe 6, Dakos 6, Soper 5. — Motakandis 5 (Phillips 66th); Raskopoulos 5, Kalantzis 5 (Estrella 46th, 6). — Soper 6, Kosmina 5, Kalantzis 5. Coach: Milan Luke.

MELITA EAGLES 2 (Farrugia 29th, Farnsworth 85th) APIA 1 (Tredinnick 45th) at St George Stadium.

Crowd: 7150. Referee: A. Owens 6.

MELITA Pupovac 8, Williams 7, Cabassi 7, Wilson 7, Griffiths 7, Brown 6, Foxman 6. Coach: Darren Hoggart.

APIA Pezzano 6, Brady 6, Bertrug 8, Lorens 7 (Dounis 46th-5). M. Brown 7. — Tredinnick 6, Ratcliffe 6, Dakos 6, Soper 5. Coach: Ray Rasic.

MARCONI 4 (Faria 20th, 54th, 81st, Gray 16th) ST GEORGE 1 (Petkovski 76th) at Marconi Stadium.

Crowd: 2250. Referee: Ken Small 7.

MARCONI James 8, Gibson 8, Rezo 8 (Cinch 41st—7), Jones 7, Odzakov 8. — Slater 9 (Cerro 41st), Arnold 6, Lamond 7. Coach: Vedran Rozic.

SUTHERLAND Burchmore 9. — Nelson 5, Terry 8, Ball 7, Sellar 6 (Burrows 21st—5). Cox 5, Meades 6, Harrington 7, Lerond 7, Duncan 5 (Hill 88th). Sharp 6. Coach: Max Groll.

Slater and Farina running hot

land almost pulled one back when Woodhouse lost the ball but Sharp failed to react quickly and allowed Woodhouse to block the second attempt. Seconds later a sharp header hit the crossbar with Woodhouse stranded.

The second half saw Croatia register a free-goal hero Slater with a goal from a cleverly taken free-kick from Cambone, and Rezo by Shane Clinch. Croatia, intent on savoring home, curving the second period, dropped a gear or two and allowed Sutherland to show some of its own attacking style.

Sharp shot wide in the 49th, then a superb drive by Mark Harrington drew the best out of Woodhouse in the 60th. But that was just about as far as the Sharks managed to achieve.

A rebound off Odzakov saw the ball sail over Burchmore to hit the woodwork, then came yet another series of Croatia goals. Cerro forced a save from Burchmore in the 65th, then Clinch faced his old team mate in the 77th. But while Cerro simply missed with his shot, Clinch simply nudged the ball straight into the arms of Burchmore.

A superb save by Burchmore in the 83rd then from Cerro in the 84th kept the 3-0 scoreline intact with both sides well satisfied at the end of the match.

It was an awesome display of power by Croatia on the eve of the semi-finals with Odzakov in full flight. Lamond hungry for another goal and willing to come up with it. Add the power of Arnold and you'll get the picture of a team which is challenging not only for the State Bank Challenge Cup but will be chasing the NSL league title as well.

Marconi 4 St. George 1

At Marconi Stadium
Scorers: Farina 20th, 54th,
81st, Gray 16th (M), Petkovski 70th (SG).

Frank Farina was most impressive in last Saturday's quarter-final against St. George's St. George, scoring three goals to spearhead his side's charge into the semi-finals.

And while Arok was most impressed with his Socceroo striker, he was not so amused to see Marconi's new signing turn it on against St. George Budapest — for obvious reasons.

Farina scored goals, Naustevski, Wheatley, Mason and Henderson had a picnic, while St. George hardly looked like the side most feared a few years back. Only Stewart Porter and to an extent Scott Ollershaw showed any enterprise to all, while the rest of this Saints team looked very ordinary indeed.

Potter and Moffit tried as hard as they could. Michael O'Shea and Niel Owens looked all at sea and David Green and Kenny Slavesci lacked direction in coming forward.

Petkovski scored a good goal close to the end but generally looked unconvincing.

butch of unheralded Saints some glimmer of hope early. He almost surprised James with an overhead kick close to the line and the ball just rolled past the post! Porter was at it again in the 11th minute when he struck a fierce drive which was tipped around the post for a corner by James.

Gibson made a very good save for the Saints at the other end in the 16th but was beaten seconds later when Paul Carter broke through before slipping a very well weighted pass to Ian Gray. Some 30 metres from goal, Gray surprised Gibson with his thunderous first timer which flew low and into the corner of the net.

Farina was left totally unmoved inside the area only a few minutes later and his attempted goal deceived Gibson. Farina's shot trickled over the line to 2-0.

Saints came back strongly from Carter in the 81st but was beaten seconds later when Paul Carter broke through before slipping a very well weighted pass to Ian Gray. Some 30 metres from goal, Gray surprised Gibson with his thunderous first timer which flew low and into the corner of the net.

Carter forced a save from Burchmore in the 84th but was beaten seconds later when Paul Carter broke through before slipping a very well weighted pass to Ian Gray. Some 30 metres from goal, Gray surprised Gibson with his thunderous first timer which flew low and into the corner of the net.

Then came a quick counter attack by Marconi. David Lowe found Zlatko Naustevski and the Yugoslav was away. As he faced his last stumbling block, he reversed his pass with one of the slickest back-heels I've seen to find an unmarked Gray. Facing Gibson, Gray fired from 20 metres, wide! And again, Naustevski, in the 44th, great through ball for David Logue who shot it to Farina but his shot went wide. Saints would have been three down in the 53rd as Naustevski employed his skills to slip a through ball for Maxwell. The tall striker was away but was brought back for an offside on Frank Farina! This is not the first time Marconi's hat-trick hero was caught offside in recent time, and the worst of it was that he failed to come back into an on-side position on a deflection!

In the 56th minute a corner from the left hand side came over and with the Saints defence taking a nap, Farina raced in to head past Gibson.

Saints were well beaten and their sole reply was little consolation.

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Real faces Red Star

UEFA's draw committee took a Real Madrid v Dynamo Kiev European Champions' Cup Final, potentially one of Europe's greatest ever encounters, a step nearer by not only keeping the two most exciting sides in Europe apart in the quarter-finals, but giving Dynamo a relatively easy tie.

Having just emerged from its close season, the Soviet champion would have been vulnerable to a challenge from any one of half a dozen survivors, but in Besiktas of Turkey is likely to find an easy ticket to the semi-finals when it will be at its formidable, fully match-fit best.

Besiktas reached the last eight by default when its would-be second round opponent, Apollon of Cyprus, declined to meet it on political grounds. A Turkish team has yet to qualify for the semi-finals of a European competition and it is unlikely that history will be made this year.

Dynamo, which very nearly doubles as the Soviet national team, was in exhilarating form when its domestic season ended and has the capability to gain a place alongside the truly great combinations in European football annals and be held in awe, as Real Madrid, Benfica and Ajax Amsterdam were in previous eras — if the Soviet authorities do not over-come the side as they did with the equally promising Kiev which won the European Cup Winners' Cup and Super Cup in 1975.

Real Madrid, as brilliant as Dynamo on its day though less consistent, is the Ukrainians' likeliest opponent in the final, should the draw keep them apart. Real faces Red Star Belgrade in the other semi-final; this hurdle is rendered much easier by the Yugoslavs just having recommended playing after their mid-winter break.

Real should be joined in the semi-finals by fellow Iberians Portu, an experienced team full



Overseas round-up with PAUL MOON

of Portuguese internationals including the exciting Paolo Futre and complemented by Brazilian Celso and Algeria's Madjar. Porto almost certainly will be too strong for plucky Brondbyernes, the first Danish team to reach the last eight of the Champions' Cup since 1951.

The fourth and most intriguing pairings matches Bayern Munich and Anderlecht. The season, talented West Germans are looked upon as potential cup winners in some quarters and Anderlecht's pedigree is equally impressive. A little bit of good fortune at a crucial moment is likely to be the deciding factor in this one and with Eddie Krcic established in the Belgian club's first team squad, the appearance of an Australian in the Champions' Cup Final is a real, exciting possibility.

If a Champions' Cup Final outing for Krcevic is conceivable, what odds against Mike Petersen gracing the European Cup Winners' Cup Final?

Well, should Petersen cement a place in the Ajax senior squad, the omens are reasonably good.

Ajax is among the strongest of the eight remaining teams in the competition, which look almost motley when compared with the survivors in the other two European competitions.

The Amsterdam club faces the sold, rather unexciting but difficult to beat Malmo, recently crowned Swedish champion Ajax's two-pronged spearhead of van Basten and Bosman will probably give it the vital edge.

The most impressive side in the earlier stages of the Cup Winners' Cup has been Bor-

deaux and any side containing Patrick Battiston, Jean Tigana and Youssouf's Vujovic twins obviously has a great deal going for it.

Quarter-final opponent Torpedo Moscow also looked a more than useful outfit when destroying Stuttgart 7-3 in the previous round, but its ninth placing in the Russian League championship completed last December suggest that result is a flattering indication of its ability. The rusty Moscovites will create a considerable surprise if they advance to the last four.

Like Torpedo, Vitosha Sofia will be going into its tie against Real Zaragoza almost directly from a long period of inactivity enforced by the harshness of eastern Europe's winter.

Real reached the away-goal ruling to squeeze past Welsh minnow Wrexham in round two and currently struggle at the wrong end of the Spanish First Division. A victory for it, therefore, can be only predicated with reservation.

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Real should be joined in the

semi-finals by fellow Iberians

Portu, an experienced team full

KRNCEVIC, PETERSEN IN EURO FINALS?

first impression, seem as

assured of a reasonably com-

fortable passage to the semi-

finals at the expense of

Scotland's Dundee United.

But, further reflection raises

doubts. United has reached

European competition quarter-

finals four times in the past

five years and only wretched

luck has prevented it from

making a greater continental

impact. Also, Barcelona

will be preoccupied by its tussle

for the Spanish League title

with Real Madrid.

This, then, is not the cut and

dried issue it originally

appeared.

The Torino v Tyrol FC pair-

ing too is rather deceptive. Tirol

is among the elite of Italian football, while most

tend to dismiss Tyrol (still

better known by its former

name of Wacker Innsbruck) as

merely a nondescript Austrian

provincial outfit. For Torino to

be equally complacent would

be a dangerous act.

Tirol has undergone a dra-

matic transformation over the

past year, both on and off the

pitch, and its Austro-Yugoslav

line-up cannot be taken lightly.

But, if Junior can recapture his

form of earlier rounds, Torino

should have put up a better

showing than conqueror Barce-

lona. It will be defending a re-

cord of 19 consecutive UEFA

Cup games without defeat.

The Scandinavians' spirit

and teamwork will present a

severe test for Inter's super-

stars. It is 22 years since the

Milanese lifted a European tro-

phy and, should their team

eliminate IFK, "Black and

Blues" fans can feel reason-

ably confident of seeing the

trophy broken in 1987.

Barcelona v Guimaraes

provides the UEFA Cup quar-

ter-finalists with a fourth fasci-

nating clash.

Barcelona is an efficient and

experienced combination,

whereas Vitoria has won many

friends this season through its

lively, exciting skilful style.

The West Germans' ability to

subdue Vitoria's Zaire interna-

tional Ndanga and Bassala

could be the key here.

The full draw is:

Champions' Cup
Bayern Munich (West Germany) v Anderlecht (Belgium), Dynamo Kiev (USSR) v Besiktas (Turkey), Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) v Real Madrid (Spain), Porto (Portugal) v Brondbyernes (Denmark).

Cup Winners' Cup
Real Zaragoza (Spain) v Vitosha Sofia (Bulgaria), Malmo (Sweden) v Ajax Amsterdam (Holland), Lokomotive Leipzig (West Germany) v Sion (Switzerland), Bordeaux (France) v Torpedo Moscow (USSR).

UEFA Cup
Dundee United (Scotland) v Barcelona (Spain), IFK Gothenburg (Sweden) v Internazionale Milan (Italy), Borussia Monchengladbach (West Germany) v Vitoria Guimaraes (Portugal), Torino (Italy) v FC Tyrol (Austria).

Matches will be played on the mornings of March 5 and 19, Australian time.

It's not so simple

Former England soccer manager Ron Greenwood once said: "Soccer is a simple game. The hard part is making it look simple."

Some of Europe's soccer ad-

ministrators seem to be having

a hard time coping with the ups

and downs of the game.

Authorities in England, S

Witzerland and Spain all

have devised complicated new

systems to determine either

the title race or promotion

and relegation issues in their

respective countries.

These involve end-of-season

play-offs or carving up of the

leagues into two or three sec-

tions. And the motives for the

changes also differ.

While English officials have

reacted to calls for pruning the

First Division program — each

team to have only one or two

Spaniards want to do the oppo-

site and fill out their season

with additional revenue-earn-

ing matches.

The Swiss plan to reduce

by 16 teams from the present

16 to 12 sets up the possibil-

ity of six Division One teams

being relegated in one of Eu-

rope's most complicated soc-

cer structures.

The bottom two clubs auto-

matically will drop to Di-

vision Two, while the four clubs

immediately above will

face two Division One places

with four teams from the lower

flight.

The Swiss Championship

will be staged in two parts,

along the same lines as an

existing system in neighbour-

ing Austria.

The first 22 games will de-

cide the top eight teams to con-

test the title in the second half

of the season, while the bottom

four will engage in a relegation

fight with the top four from Di-

vision Two.

While the Swiss break their

league in half at the midway

point, the Spaniards will begin

dissecting theirs at the end of

the regulation 45-game pro-

gram.

The top six will play on a

round-robin basis for the

leagues title and for places in

the UEFA Cup. The teams fin-

ishing in the bottom six will

wrestle to avoid the drop.

To make matters even more

complex, the clubs seven

through 12 will play each other

for the right to play the league

and Spanish cup winners in a

new triangular tournament

called the Spanish League Cup.

All other European coun-

tries will keep to existing

formats.

Although Greek adminis-

trators are trimming the size of

their league from 76 to 52 pro-

Barcelona's Spanish Cup KO surprise

• Bruno Mora, who won 21 caps for Italy, an Italian League Championship medal with Juventus and a European Champions' Cup medal with AC Milan, has died at the age of 49. Mora had, in recent years, been youth coach at Parma.

• The Copa America (South American championship) will be played in Argentina between June 27 and July 12. All 10 members of the South American Confederation will compete.

• Telé Santana, who coached Brazil at the 1982 and 1986 World Cup finals, has taken charge of the Saudi Arabian team.

• The \$500,000 transfer of Derek Statham from West Bromwich Albion to Liverpool has fallen through following the former England international full back's failure of a medical examination.

• Athletic Osasuna created the biggest surprise of the Spanish Cup's fourth round when eliminating Barcelona. Osasuna won on penalties after the two teams had scored one goal each in their two leg tie.

• Portuguese defender Alvaro has been reinstated to his country's national squad. He was one of 22 players suspended after Portugal's European Cup win.

• England B international striker Mike Flanagan, who was reported to be contemplating a move to South Melbourne Hellas a year ago, has been dismissed by the English Football Association. Rovers are believed to be \$1,000,000 in debt.

• Austrian coach Ernest Happel, who is to leave SV Hamburg at the end of the current West German season, has been offered the post of technical director by Saudi Arabia's federation.

• Should he accept, he will receive \$3,000,000 over four years plus a house, a limousine and a chauffeur!

Greek First Division side Iraklis which beat it 1-0 in a friendly fixture in Crete.

• England B international striker Mike Flanagan, who was reported to be contemplating a move to South Melbourne Hellas a year ago, has been dismissed by the English Football Association. Rovers are believed to be \$1,000,000 in debt.

• Former England international striker Frank Worthington who, some reports insisted, turned down a move to West Adelaide Hellas last year in order to become manager of Tranmere Rovers, has been dismissed by the English Football Association. Rovers are believed to be \$1,000,000 in debt.

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• Although Greek administrators are trimming the size of their league from 76 to 52 pro-

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Brack: Gully lucky to beat us

By
JOHN
MANGAN

Greg Brack, Croydon City's exciting new signing, came to the club having won the best and fairest award at Mooroolbark for the last two seasons — and he has yet to turn 19.

But it's not just his growing collection of awards that has made Victoria's major clubs take notice of him — it's also his superb performances when Mooroolbark has played more glamourous sides.

"Last year in the fourth round of the Dockey Cup we came up against Heidelberg. The tie was played at Middle Park — that would have to be one of the biggest games I have ever played in," says Brack. "I played alright," he adds.

That is an understatement. In the presence of Heidelberg's seasoned NSL pros Brack had an outstanding game and pundits proclaimed the young sweeper Man of the Match.

But if he has an impressive record behind him, Brack is not one to rest on his laurels.

"For me this is a really important year. I finished school last year so now I will have a bit more time to devote to playing without the burden of homework."

"I'm making a big step from the Victorian League Third Division to the State League, and I am leaving club football after eight years. In my time there I have seen the club go from the Provisional League to the Second Division, so you can see, it's quite a change to make."

With Croydon one of the State League teams battling it out in the Buffalo Gold Cup, it has been a baptism of fire.

"I was marking Danny Ward in our game against Green Gully and he was just that much faster than I'm used to. We

players are able to turn so much and so quickly as well. Those are the things that have really struck me about the differences between the leagues."

Brack is not at all dismayed by the fact that Croydon is not up among the leaders in the Buffalo Cup.

"Sure, we'd like to be winning games, but in a tournament like this where you're up against NSL clubs you can't go out there expecting to win, but we're making the most of it."

Brack particularly values the opportunity at Croydon to be playing alongside experienced players like Jim O'Reilly, Dave Brogan, Graham French and, of course, coach Jim Tansey.

"One of the reasons I chose to sign for Croydon was that I already knew a few of the boys at the club, as well as the fact that their ground was relatively close to where I live."

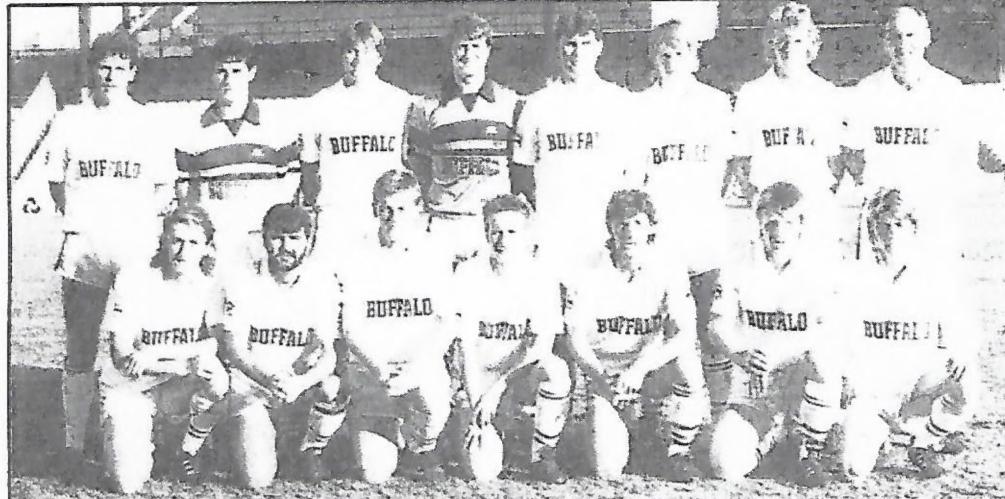
"I first considered leaving Mooroolbark at the beginning of last season but nothing came of it. Then I began this season spending a week training at Box Hill and then four weeks training with Melbourne United. Travelling to train with them was a problem."

Not that Brack is intimidated by great distances. Vice-captaining Victoria at under-13 level he went with the team to Darwin where it won the Australian championship.

Brack got his first game in the Mooroolbark senior team in 1983 — at age 14. In a team with experienced players like Joe Trout, Paul Priestley and Hugh McCann, Brack spent the 1984 season cementing a position and by 1985 was a regular.

And during the move, how does he rate Croydon's chances this season?

"To tell the truth, I haven't been particularly impressed by any of the State League teams we've played. Green Gully are the team that everyone is talking about, but they were lucky to beat us, so I think we'll be there or thereabouts at the end of the year."



Croydon, back row: Dave Brogan, Corrado Nobile, Greg Brack, Keith Waterman, Graham French, Jason Harbinson, Ian Marshall, Jim Tansey. Front row: Roy O'Shea, Alex Livingstone, Jim Nelson, Matt McDonald, Steve Beech, Mark Brown, Darren Cooper. Picture: LES SHORROCK.

Worthington sings Tassie's praises

By
WALTER PLESS

Eric Worthington, the national director of coaching, believes that Tasmania must be doing something right if it can produce two current national team captains.

Worthington was speaking at a one-day seminar on coaching and administration, conducted by the Tasmanian Soccer Association recently.

Alan Vesti, the director of coaching in NSW, Ken Morton, the Tasmanian coaching director, and John Howlin, representing the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Soccer Referees Federation, were other speakers at the seminar.

I don't think it's commonly known that Tasmania must be doing something very good because the State has produced the current national under-16 captain and the national youth captain. Worthington said

that Tasmanian Dominic Longo recently captained the Australian under-16s in Taiwan.

Worthington, who has been the national coaching director for 14 years now, said he had seen tremendous changes in that time.

One of the most significant had been the employment of full-time directors of coaching in all States.

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In rialzo le azioni della Juve

Eddie Campbell rimmari in bianconero almeno per questa stagione! Il brillante terzino che fu uno degli artefici principali dello scudetto nazionale due anni fa, ha raggiunto un accordo con la società e sarà perciò nuovamente a disposizioni dell'allenatore McKendry.

Questa e di gran lunga la miglior notizia che la tifoseria bianconera ha avuto da alcune settimane e, allo stesso tempo, una delle cose più sensate fatte dal comitato in tempi recenti. Ce da augurarsi ora che alcune divergenze di vedute fra il giocatore e la direzione tecnica della squadra siano anche messe da parte; l'anno scorso infatti Campbell ebbe una stagione alquanto incolore appunto a causa di certe incomprensioni.

Il ritorno di Campbell imporrà l'avanzamento di Fabio Incantalupo, terzino d'emergenza nelle prime quattro uscite di coppa notturna, in una posizione più consona alle sue doti tecniche

ed al suo ritrovato ottimo grado di forma; idealmente egli dovrebbe riprendere il suo vecchio ruolo sulla fascia laterale sinistra da dove potrebbe far partire i suoi dosatissimi lanci o avanzare in posizione di tiro per lanciare le sue famose bordate di sinistro.

Combinazione però, Scott Patterson quest'anno sta facendo cose eleggibili proprio in tale posizione e certamente non merita di essere spedito in panchina per fare posta a Fabio. A meno che non si volessero provare alcuni spostamenti, a dir poco interessanti.

Per esempio, si potrebbe anche arretrare Sean Lane a mezzapunta visto e considerato ch' il giocatore sembra piuttosto timido sotto porta, mentre ha dimostrato anche nelle sue apparizioni in sordina di avere una buona tecnica ed una predilezione per fare gioco piuttosto che per assumere le vesti di kamikaze. Alla fin dei conti le sue partite migliori nel Preston le ha fatte proprio in posizione arretrata.

Con Lane dietro la

prima fila, Patterson potrebbe tornare far la spalla di Zanni (perché il suo miglioramento sia dovuto a motivi diversi di posizione rispetto all'anno scorso). Questo a sua volta lascerebbe via libera ad Incantalupo.

Una delle altre due posizioni a centrocampo andrebbe di diritto a Durakovic che potrebbe ben presto diventare un altro Paul Wade in quanto a redimento per l'economia della squadra, anche se tecnicamente i due giocatori saranno sempre molto diversi.

A chi dare la quarta a posizioni a centrocampo non e' facile. Fra il veterano Cullen che e' pur sempre capace di fare la sua parte, il giovanissimo Grbac che e' pur sempre capace di fare la sua parte, il giovanissimo Grbac che e' una delle migliori promesse del calcio locale, il nuovo acquisto Fabrizio e il provato Palatsidis non e' facile scegliere il migliore.

Senza contare che il giovane Montemurro non ha proprio sfigurato quelle poche volte che e'

sceso in campo con i "grandi", anche se le sue pretese possono essere più miti rispetto agli altri quattro contendenti.

Naturalmente pero il possibile rientro di Dowie fra qualche mese potrebbe mettere tutti quanti d'accordo. In tal caso il numero dei contendenti salira a clinique con l'aggiunta di Incantalupo o di Patterson, a seconda degli schemi adattati dall'allenatore.

Questo affollamento a centrocampo difficilmente si diraderà anche se qualche fall dovesse aprirsi in difesa poiché in tal caso non sarebbe poi tanto automatico l'arretramento di Durakovic; sia perche Vesnarev ha dimostrato ampiamente di essere un validissimo rincalzo per almeno due posizioni difensive, sia perche l'inarestable Mehmet si e' rivelato insospettabile a centrocampo.

Sabato scorso infatti il giovane Jolly ha dominato la zona centrale del campo con la sua grinta, la sua velocità e la sua incisività. In un reparto che mancava di forza e decisione nel



VIVA ITALIA!
with ROCKY DI ZIO

porto del suo vecchio compagno di infanzia calcistica (i due, e Palatsidis, giocavano assieme nel Port Melbourne da ragazzi).

A onore del vero bisogna dire che il rientro di yzendoorn ha fatto anche molta differenza in difesa e nel nascente di molte mosse offensive. Tutto sommato, fra il ritorno di Campbell, e la brillante prova offerta dalla squadra sabato scorso, e lecito dire che la situazione generale e migliorata a perdita d'occhio nel breve spazio di una settimana.

Se dovessimo rispondere adesso all'interrogativo posto da noi stessi la settimana scorsa ("Juventus, squadretta o squadrona?"), saremmo propensi ad essere ottimisti. Comunque ancora alcuni fattori debbono essere risolti prima che si possa avere la certezza che anche quest'anno le zebre di Melbourne potranno essere fra "i primi della classe" in un campionato che sembra portato a fare un note-

vole salto di qualità.

Il fattore più determinante e sempre quello rappresentato da Sean Lane. Riuscirà a rendere secondo le grandi aspettative nel ruolo di punta, o dovrà essere spostato a mezzapunta? Da questo schiarimento dipenderà gran parte di quell'ulteriore miglioramento di cui la Juventus ha ancora bisogno.

Altra interessante alternativa sono quelle proposte dal possibile rientro di Dowie che l'anno scorso è stato messo fuori causa da una serie di infortuni e che si sta ora riprendendo da una operazione.

Un Lane che andasse a "tutti i cilindri" ed in Dowie completamente ristabilito, sarebbero due armi micidiali per la Juventus formato 1987.

Domenica, contro il Frankston Pines, la Juventus cercherà di compiere il miracolo di qualificarsi per le semifinali del torneo notturno... a condizione che Preston e Crotia pareggino fra di loro o che il George Cross inciampi con il St Albans.

Marconi e Juventus di Adele hanno passato il primo turno dei rispettivi tornei statali a pieno punteggio, mentre l'APIA non ce l'ha fatta.

ZAKASNELA POBEDA

Tek 8.4. kola Nočnog Buffallo Kupa JUST je zabeležio prvu pobedu u ovaj sezonu, posteo je savladao Green Gully Ajax sa 2:1 (0:0). Ne moze se govoriti o velikoj igri, ali oigledno je da Sekularac sa utravom stvario novi tim, prvi put je video akciju Minh Tri Vo, koli je neuspješno izostavljen protiv Heidelberg Aleksandra.

Održana je ponovo u zadnjim sekundama igre primula gol, sto se treći put dogodio ove godine, lako golman Zoran Vlajnić ni jedanput nije bio krije. Progresili su odbranbeni igrači, koji još uvek igraju naivno i skloni su panici u zadnjim sekundama.

Odbrana ce verovatno ostati Ljubo Petrović, koji je posle utakmice sa Ajdaksonom proslavio ispunar.

Poslednji utakmicu u Nočnom Buffalu "Plavi" igraju protiv Box Hilla. Utakmica ce dobro doci Sekularcu da izvrsi posledje eksperimente pre posetka prvenstva. Jedinstvene Nacionalne lige, od kojeg nas razvajaju tacne mesec dana. Razume se, i taj se period moze korisno iskoristiti, mada je verovatno da ce igraci kup utakmice.

Sekularac ce sigurno sa upravom potraziti jos jednog odgovornog igrača za odbranu na lokalnom trizku, dok za nalu ocekuje dva igrača iz Jugoslavije.

MAKEDONIJA RAZOCARALA
Do susreta sa Juventusom

Preston Makedonija je zadržao sa Hellasom blia favorit za osvajanje Nočnog kupa.

Medutim, prošle poteze nisu mogli prepoznati Zoran Ilioski i njegova druzina. Igrali su bez oduseljavanja i sistema, tako da su od golova napravili veresiju. Razume se, imaju još uvek teorijski sanu da posetaju i polufinale. Medutim, nije dovoljno da pobede Croatia u zadnjem susretu, jer im je to poslednji susret, dok Croatia igra i zaostala utakmicu protiv St. Albans.

Kandidati iz "A" grupe za polufinale su neosporne George Cross i Melbourne Croatia, do Juventus zaksnije, a Makedonija proigrala svoje sance.

U "B" grupe u polufinalne ce se plasirati gotovo sigurno Helas i Aleksandar.

PRIJATELJSKE I KUP UTAKMICE

U takmicenju za Altona Cup Mladost je izgubila i drugu Utakmicu protiv domaćina Altona City sa 0:2 (0:1), tako da je ispalta iz daljeg takmicenja.

Strelci klubovi su odigrali niz prijateljskih utakmica. U tome su najaktivniji Westage SINDJELIC "Plavi" iz Springvale, Central City Crvena zvezda.

Prijateljski susret izmedju Sindjelic i Ringwood Srbije pre dve nedelje u North Ringwood zavrsio se nereseno 1:1.

Prosele nedelje Dandenong City je pobedio Ringwood Srbiju sa 2:1 dok je prijateljski

susret izmedju Altona City i Sindjelica domaci sudija prekinuo u 44. minuti, kada stanja 1:1 zog preigraja igramicima.

SPRINGVALE UNITED — CENTRAL CITY/C. ZVEZDA 1:2 (0:1) u Keysborough.

Strelci: Dragan Milenovic iz strahovog vojaja sa 18 metara i Bora Andjelovic za Zvezdu, Cane Velevski pred krik igre za "Plave".

SPRINGVALE UNITED — SPRINGVALE CITY 3:1 (2:0). Razigrani i borenji "Plavi" zastupeno su savladali clana Dravzene lige na njegovom terenu.

Strelci: Peter Lutgens 2:1 Dragoslav Jelicic za "Plave".

U poslednji takmicenja izmedju Richmond Bosna je edulicija da se povuce sa fudbalskog polja, na kome se uspesno takmila i citavu jednu deceniju.

Razlog povicenja je izgleda finansijske, prvi put da je Bosna tim jedini da prevede na fudbalski polje, na kome se uspesno takmila i citavu jednu deceniju.

SPRINGVALE UNITED — CLAYTON/INTER 6:2 (21). "Plavi" su obudjivo dobili vanjski susret na svom terenu posto sa prvi put igrali neresenog.

Strelci za Springvale United: Peter Lutgens 3, Alaksandar-

Cane Velevski, Dragoslav Jelicic i Goran Filipovski.

U predigri rezerve Springvale United pobedili drugi tim Clayton/Intera sa 3:2 (2:1). Strelci: Predrag Pjanic, Rade Colic i Toma Lovric.

PASCOE VALE/PELISTER — CRVENA ZVEZDA 1:0 (1:0).

Pelister je posle velike borbe

pobedio starog rivala iz Provincialne divizije. Jedini gol postigao je Tony Centarriano, koga je bez uspeha vrbovao Wagstaff.

U predigri su rezerve igrale neresenou.

POVUKLA SE RICHMOND BOSNA

Iako se privljalja za novu sezonu Richmond Bosna je edulicija da se povuce sa fudbalskog polja, na kome se uspesno takmila i citavu jednu deceniju.

Razlog povicenja je izgleda finansijske, prvi put da je Bosna tim jedini da prevede na fudbalski polje, na kome se uspesno takmila i citavu jednu deceniju.

LALOR UTD/SLOGA v. S.M. MORDIALLO na H.R. Uren Reserve, Victoria Drive, Thomastown, My8 D.8.

SUNBURY UNITED v. RINGWOOD UTD/SRBIA na Langama Parku, Mitchell Lane, Sunbury, My.112 H.10.

ESSENDON CITY/TRIES-TINA v. NORTH GEELONG/CROATIA

MEKO HOLDINGS v. CLARINDA.

POCETAK DOCKERT KUPA

U sobotu 25. februara počinje najstarije fudbalsko takmicenje u Australiji — Dockert Cup. Preve mnogice za ovaj tradicionalni turnir odigrane su 1969. godine. JUST je prvi etiatski klub koji ga je osvojio 1951. godine.

Ove godine igraju se dva preliminarna kola pre pocetka glavnog takmicenja.

U prvom preliminarnom kolu, u sobotu 28. februara igraju Jugo derbi Pascoe Vale Pelister i Williamstown Mladost na Richards Reserve Charles Street, Coburg, My. 17 F.9.

ALTONA GATE VARDAR igra u gostima protiv MOORABBIN CITY — a.

Ostale utakmice 1. preliminarnog kola:

WESTGATE SINDJELIC v. DANDENONG CITY na igralistu Sindjelic.

LALOR UTD/SLOGA v. S.M. MORDIALLO na H.R. Uren Reserve, Victoria Drive, Thomastown, My8 D.8.

SUNBURY UNITED v. RINGWOOD UTD/SRBIA na Langama Parku, Mitchell Lane, Sunbury, My.112 H.10.

ESSENDON CITY/TRIES-TINA v. NORTH GEELONG/CROATIA

MEKO HOLDINGS v. CLARINDA.

Minh Tri Vo

by
Manos
Milius

ΤΑ ΝΕΑ ΤΩΝ ΟΜΑΔΩΝ ΜΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΕΝΑΛΤΥ

ΙΝ ΕΠΙΛΗΜΗ ΤΩΝ ΟΜΑΔΩΝ ΜΑΣ

ΜΠΑΙΝΟΥΝ το Σάββατο οι ομάδες μας στους επίσημους αγώνες με την προκριματική φάση στην αγώνας του Ντόκερτ Καπ.

Από τις ελληνικές οι ομάδες μόνον η Δέλτα Γέραρδος προκρίθηκε στον Β' γύρο.

Τα ζευγάρια είναι τα εξής:
Δελτηλός — ΕΡΜΗΣ ΜΟΡΤΙΛΑΔΟΣ

Μητρό Πάρκ — ΚΑΙΤΟΣ ΧΙΑ

Ντόκερτον — ΤΡΑΛΑΡΓΙΚΟΝ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΝΕΣ

Ν. ΕΛΛΑΣ — Μοντρέαλ Καπονάρα

Μένο Χλαντιγκού — ΚΑΙΑΡΙΝΤΑ

ΠΕΑΣΙΑΣ — Ροδόνια

ΠΙΟΥΒΕΝΤΟΥΣ — ΚΥΡΡΙΟΣ — ΚΑΙΤΟΣ ΧΙΑ

Η ΠΙΟΥΒΕΝΤΟΥΣ, ο Κύρριος και το Καλέφτον ΧΙΑ θα τα βρούν στο Ν.Σ.Φ. σε δυο βρομδές μόνον το Ντόκερτον προκρίθηκε για την πρώτη φάση.

Ο τελευταίος γκολκόπηκε Βλέποντας να πιάζεται η Καρέλα στο Ν.Σ.Φ. Το Καλέφτον ζητάει 5.000 δολάρια.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΚΥΠΕΛΛΟ

ΤΗΝ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ και στο FANI'S RECEPTIONS

Βούν και τα έπα θλα στους νικητές και διακριθέντες παίκτες.

Επίσης από τους αθλητικούραρέφους θα βγει η καλύτερη ευθενάκη του Κυπέλλου.

ΠΟΥΞΕΤ

ΠΟΛΑ ΚΑΔΑ Βουλειάς άρχισε να κάνει ο παλιός και προκοπής της Γουέστ Πόλα Τακινάνδα. Φυσικά με την βοήθεια δώνων ο φιλότιμος προπονητής θα κάνει ακόμη περισσότερα. Οι ευθενάρεψανοι παίκτες μπορούν να τηλεφωνήσουν στο 366 1574.

ΚΑΚΗ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑ

ΟΙ ΥΠΕΧΥΓΟΥΝΤΗΣ της Ν.Ελλάς άφοναν χωρίς τη σχετική δύναμη να προπονηθεί μαζί τους παίκτες της Δέλτας Γέραρδοβιλ. Μάλιστα ο ηγέτης του συλλόγου θέως Καρπούζης μου είπε δια της "ηγεμόνως από την Δέλτα αλλά του έδωσε γιατί δεν είχε δέσμεια από τον πατέρα του".

Τέρα ποιός λέει αλήθεια εγώ ή ο πρόεδρος της Ν.Ελλάς;

ΜΑΛΑΒΕΡΝ ΣΙΤΤΥ

ΟΙ ΥΠΕΧΥΓΟΥΝΤΗΣ της Ν.Ελλάς και της Εθνικής προκριματικής αγάνευς του Κυριάκου των Παλαιούμενων την περιοδεία της Εθνικής από τους πέντε παίκτες με την πατέρα τους.

φορέσουν την φανέλλη του συλλόγου να τηλεφωνήσουν στον "Άθα Κωνσταντάλλη (251794 μετά τις 6.00 μ.μ.)

ΔΟΣΑ ΓΙΑΡΡΑΒΙΑ

ΣΕ φιλικό αγώνα η Δέλτα Γιαρραβιλ θίνησε το Σάββατο Σπρινγκεπάλη 6-1 με γκρίς της ΤΣ. Ριάλαν Καρπούζης 2 και Πόλη Καρυ πέλη. Το γκρίς του Σ.Σπρινκεπάλη πέτυχε ο Μάρκος. Η ομάδα του Γιαρραβιλ άφησε δριπές στην εντυπωσιακή παρέα την αποκούν της Τ.Σ. Δημητρίου, Σεβαστίου, Σεβαστίου, Περιβάνη, Ν.Νεκέτη.

Άδριος η δέλτα δίνει φωτιάν σεγνόν επέδρεψε στον Πανελλήνιον και το Σάββατο πέτισε δέρδας (3.00 μ.μ.) η Β' ομάδα και 5.00 μ.μ. η Α' ομάδα (παίζει με το Μάλβερν Σίττυ).

Άρχισαν οι εγγραφές των Τζόνυων του συλλόγου και οι ενδιαφερόμενοι γονείς να γονεύσουν στο 68 2068.

ΤΟΥΡΝΟΥ ΠΑΙΔΑΙΜΑΧΩΝ

ΕΥΝΕΚΙΤΗΚΑΝ οι προκριματικοί αγάνευς του Κυριάκου των Παλαιούμενων την περιοδεία της Ευνεκίτηκαν από τους πέντε παίκτες με την πατέρα τους.

κινησαν αυτούς αγώνες τον Πέλοπο και το Γκ.

Σποτ αντιστοιχία.

Την Κυριακή στον πρώτο ημιτελικό παίζουν ΚΑΙΑΡΙΝΤΑ — ΓΚΑΡΠΕΝΤ ΣΙΤΤΥ (1.00) και ΠΑΝΑΧΑΤΗ — με ζΚΑΗ ή ΓΟΥΑΒΕΡΑΥ στις 3.00 μ.μ.

Οι αγάνευς θα είναι διάρκειας 45 λεπτών το κέντρο πημένηρο.

ΔΟΣΑ ΓΙΑΡΡΑΒΙΑ — ΚΩΔΑΗΝΤ ΣΙΤΤΥ

Την Κυριακή Ι Μαρτίου στο παιδικό γήπεδο της Δέλτας θα γίνει ένας φιλικός αλλά με μεγάλο ενδιαφέρον αγώνας. Η Δέλτα θα αντιτελιστεί το Κάρφηλην Σίττυ την Στις 1.00 στις 3.00 μ.μ.

Οι αγάνευς θα πάρουν στα τοπικές ομάδες.

Το γήπεδο θρίλεματα στο EDWARDS RESERVE BRUNEL ST. SPOTSWOOD με 41 ΣΙΖ.

Το Δ.Συμβολίου της Δέλτας και ο προπονητής ευχαριστούν το Κάρφηλην για την φιλική συνάντηση ως επίσης και τον τεχνικό του συλλόγο Τάκη Σβέγγο.

ΖΚΑΗ

ΣΗΜΕΙΑ αρχίζουν τις προπονήσεις τα ΣΚΟΦ

Londoners dominate FA Cup

London's threatened domination of the English season gained impetus last weekend when Arsenal and Tottenham eased into the quarter-finals of the Football Association (FA) Cup.

Arsenal's unspectacular and unexpected climb up the first division table has not been met with unanimous approval and it won new friends with the manner of its 2-0 win over second division Hull.

Whatever the outcome of Walsall's return date at Watford, the third division is guaranteed one club in the quarter-finals following Wigan's splendid 3-0 home win over second division Hull.

But rejuvenated Coventry produced the most impressive win of the day when it travelled to the second division high-fliers Stoke and emerged 1-0 winners, courtesy of a Jack Glyn goal after 79 minutes.

There was further good news for Arsenal in the league when third-placed Liverpool failed to move above the Londoners after being held to a 2-2 draw at Aston Villa despite going ahead after 40 seconds with a Craig Johnston goal.

The mercurial Charlie Nicholas was immediately taken off the substitutes' bench and the Scottish striker showed a refreshing sense of adventure with a breathtaking goal in the closing stages.

Like the jealous neighbors it is, Tottenham took the same route to victory against first division stragglers Newcastle when third-placed Liverpool failed to move above the Londoners after being held to a 2-2 draw at Aston Villa despite going ahead after 40 seconds with a Craig Johnston goal.

But an own goal by Mark Lawrenson, Ireland's European Championship hero in Scotland on Wednesday, and a 43rd minute effort from defender Paul Elliott left Liverpool trailing until Paul Walsh grabbed a last equaliser.

Everton continue to lead the first division with 51 points followed by Arsenal (53) and Liverpool (52).

The Scottish Cup provided the most romantic tale of the day when Highland League outfit Peterhead came from behind to draw 2-2 at second division leaders Raith.

A large percentage of Peterhead supporters' club members will be unable to attend next week's replay, however — they are inmates of the local maximum security prison who follow the fortunes of the club with great interest.

Leading cup contenders Dundee United, which meets Barcelona in the quarter-finals

SPANIARDS STAB BRITS IN BRAWL

Spanish youths stabbed two British fans in a brawl outside Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium, before England's 4-2 win over Spain in their friendly last week.

Ian Braden, 20, was knifed in the groin and taken to hospital in serious condition, the second fan, 19-year-old Norman Dean, had lesser injuries.

Police said the two Britons were stabbed during fighting between rival supporters after a British bus was stoned as it was being parked outside the stadium.

An hour before the match, about 200 members of the violent "Ultra" Real Madrid fan club gathered at the south

IMPRESSIVE HUGHES

Wales striker Mark Hughes gave Juventus chairman Giampiero Boniperti a tantalising sight of his aggressive skills as his injury-ravaged country held the Soviet Union to a goalless draw in Swansea.

Boniperti officially flew in from Turin to check on the welfare of the Italian club's Stg. 3.2 million — (\$47.38 million) — investment from Liverpool Ian Rush. Rush is scheduled to join Juventus in the northern summer.

But Barcelona striker Hughes overshadowed Rush and must have tempted Boniperti to try and sign him. Rush's wish to have his Welsh colleague playing alongside him for Juventus next season.

Indeed, Hughes stabbed a shot past Soviet goalkeeper Viktor Chanov after 31 minutes, but his delight turned to disappointment when he was adjudged to have used unfair force in expelling a chink in the iron curtain.

Wales manager Mike England said: "We were all disappointed. Had it been allowed, it would have opened the game up in the second-half."

Hughes shrugged off that setback and continued to torment

relieved to escape with a similar result at third division Walsall.

But London's fifth surviving club, Queen's Park Rangers, failed to reach the sixth round when it lost 2-1 at second division Leeds.

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Linkeker's four-goal haul, two in each half after Emilio Butragueno had given the home side an early lead, was his best ever for England and the perfect birthday present for manager Bobby Robson, 53 last week.

With Hoddle hitting the bar with a long-range effort and Linkeker just wide after a surging run from midfield, Spain will find itself lucky not to have won by more.

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THE 1987 BUFFALO GOLD CUP

5th ROUND at OLYMPIC PARK No. 1

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27 K.O. 7.15



BOBBY RUSSELL

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS

VS

GREEN GULLY

FOLLOWED BY

GEORGE CROSS

VS

ST ALBANS



JOHN MARKOVSKI

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28 K.O. 7.15



STEVE MARLEY

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER

VS

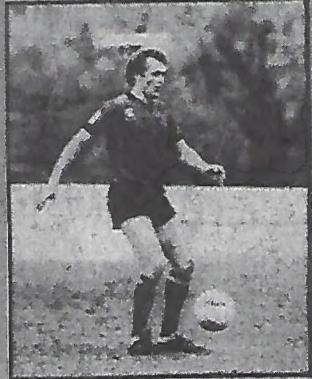
CROYDON

FOLLOWED BY

PRESTON MAKEDONIA

VS

MELBOURNE CROATIA



ZORAN ILLIOSKI

SUNDAY MARCH 1 K.O. 7.15



ZDRAVKO LUJIC

FOOTSCRAY JUST

VS

BOX HILL

FOLLOWED BY

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS

VS

FRANKSTON PINES



FAB INCANTALUPO